



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Israeli Role in Regional Economic Plan Examined

MM0411110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "The Positive Aspect of the Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been some controversy about the major economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa held in Casablanca. The debate is about the future of cooperation among the region's states.

The conference was a significant occasion for opening our files to one another, particularly as some world powers sent official and popular delegations, some of them for the first time, to hear what the peoples of the region have to say.

What the people of the region, that is us, have to say is complicated and diverse with a mixture of facts and theories, truths and exaggerations, fact and fiction. Here I will try to address three specific points related to the proposed idea of cooperation. The first is Israel's participation, the second is the regimes, and the third is finance.

Today I will just discuss the Israel complex. It is no secret that many people are not happy about Israel's presence [at the conference] but that has been dictated. It is like the story of selling the cat with the camel. Without Israeli participation there would be no cooperation, not with the blessings and guarantees of the industrial states.

Even those who see Israeli participation in the economic cooperation plan as a bitter pill to swallow will later on see it as a necessity.

Since the early fifties, there have been attempts to form regional blocs but they fell victim to political differences. Because economics were kept out of all collective agreements, inter-Arab cooperation has failed dismally.

Now there is another chance and it might, for the first time, produce success in achieving cooperation. Israel, which had divided the Arabs at the beginning of the peace process, may be a cause for Arab grouping on clear and firm foundations. Those who are fighting the plan because they do not want Israel in it, know that that cannot be done without considering Israel as a member of the family.

Here I would like to address the Arab minds not emotions. The Arabs should forget that one member of the family is a founding because that would keep the family united and keep a roof over its head. Israel is only one state which some tried to portray as a giant industrial state similar to Germany or Japan which, in actual fact, it is not.

Israeli technological, industrial, and agricultural superiority is a known fact but it is a limited superiority in a very big market in which dozens of other foreign states compete.

The population of Israel is less than the population of even Somalia and its export capacity is much less than the capacity of a state like South Korea which has a presence in many Arab states. So why fear this founding child which we have now been compelled to adopt?

We should never forget that the massive real capabilities are in the bigger markets which usually have the final say. Just as Israel is a compulsory chain on the foot of this region, without which it cannot move, it will ultimately be governed by its interests in the region's markets, just like any other state which exports a major part of its products to or imports a major part of its needs from a single market.

We have more influence on such states as the Philippines and Spain, who are far away, than we do on Israel which is in our midst. The secret is that the Philippines and Spain have economic needs which Israel does not.

Here I am not proposing economic cooperation with Israel as a political weapon, because that too would be illogical. I am just pointing out that Israeli influence becomes weaker not stronger when Israeli needs increase at Arab level.

What is even more important is that we should turn a blind eye to Israel being a part of the plan so that it would, above all, serve Arab interests. Let the businessmen themselves decide what they want to import and what they want to export.

I recall what an ordinary Jordanian citizen said when asked his opinion about the Jordanian-Israeli agreement after it was signed. He said I do not care what they sign, I will not buy Israeli goods.

That is a logical reaction to what the circumstances have imposed on the politicians. He reserves the final right of deciding for himself what he wants. We have the Egyptian experiment before our eyes today, 15 years after [the treaty with Israel.] The Egyptians still prefer to purchase all kinds of goods except Israeli goods. But, on the other hand, Egypt has regained Sinai and its oil and the Suez Canal and its revenues.

The regional cooperation plan is an irreplaceable opportunity, provided there is a sincere will on the part of the participating states, and Israel could, without knowing it, be a real and positive factor in fulfilling that plan.

Palestinian Affairs

Suspected Hamas Activists Under Administrative Arrest

TA0311163494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven suspected activists of the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have been placed under administrative arrest for six months. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports

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that the seven are residents of the al-Jalazun refugee camp north of Ramallah and that two of them had been deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon.

Hamas Leader Denies Link to Attacks in Israel

JN0311102494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
3 Nov 94 p 12

[Article by Ghadir Tahir, "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Wednesday [2 November] denied Israeli charges that his Jordan-based office directs operation against Israeli targets and sends arms to the group in the occupied territories.

Muhammad Nazzal, the representative of Hamas in Jordan, said: "We have nothing to do with organising or funding any operations in the occupied territories."

"We have an information office here and I am only a spokesman," Mr. Nazzal told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday. "We (Hamas) in Jordan are not involved in arming military operations against Israeli targets or sending instructions of any kind."

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reportedly said Tuesday that Hamas ships arms into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Egypt and Jordan. This was the first such Israeli accusation since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26.

"Hamas weapons come into the territories from Egypt and Jordan," Mr. Rabin reportedly told the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

A spokesman quoted Mr. Rabin as saying that funds for fundamentalists also come from Jordan as well as Europe and the United States.

A senior military intelligence official, who was not named by the spokesman, told the committee that Hamas had a command centre in Jordan.

"A large part of the orders to attack Israeli targets have been transmitted by Hamas from Jordan, not by telephone or fax but by messengers," he said.

Mr. Nazzal said Mr. Rabin was trying to apportion the blame for his government's failure to guarantee security.

"The charges against groups outside Palestine is an attempt by Rabin to find a scapegoat for his failure to control his security," said Mr. Nazzal. Israel has been hit with several deadly bomb attacks in the last one month, killing at least 24 people and wounding dozens. All the attacks were claimed by the military wing of Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam [Battalions].

The last time Israel accused Jordan of harbouring "terrorists," Amman took strong action against the Hamas office here, confiscating their spokesman's passports and declaring the group illegal.

Tension has been rising between the government and the Islamist-led opposition. His Majesty King Husayn, in a speech to deputies last Sunday, warned Islamists and other rejections not to disparage the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and not to slander the monarchy over the accord from the pulpits of the mosques.

Officials refused to comment Wednesday on the Israeli allegations, but Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said in an interview with Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) that there were no Hamas bases in Jordan.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said Wednesday:

"The Israeli prime minister is trying to capitalise on the anti-rejectionist mood, which manifested itself immediately after Friday's incidents (when clashes broke out in Amman mosque) and was reflected by His Majesty's speech to deputies, in order to provoke a strong reaction against the Islamists," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

"Rabin knows that there are no armed groups in Jordan that plan violent acts. He is trying to create a link between the Islamic movement in Jordan, which rejects violence, and the armed resistance groups in the occupied territories."

"I strongly believe Jordan will not allow itself to be used as a tool in Israel's hand in its war against Hamas," said Mr. al-Kabariti. "Jordan will prevent any attempt by any group to use Jordanian territory to launch attacks against Israel. This is clear in the peace treaty."

He said Jordan would not risk its democracy to fight Israel's war. The influential deputy said Hamas had a right to have a representative information office here as long as it did not violate any Jordanian laws.

Islamic Action Front Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah denied the Israeli allegations, challenging the Israeli government to produce any evidence to support its claim. He said Hamas does not have any military organisation operation outside the occupied territories.

Mr. 'Uwaydah told a news conference Wednesday that the only support Hamas gets from outside the occupied territories is "political and moral."

He said Hamas does not received any arms from Jordan.

Weekly Reports Hamas Training in U.S.

TA031111194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Armed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads are training in the use of arms and sabotage materials on farms in the Chicago area. This has been reported by the Paris-based weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, which is distributed in the Arab world.

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There is a large Palestinian community in that area which helps the squads in collecting funds and equipment, acting under the guise of charity organizations. One of those training camps was accidentally discovered by a hunter who heard shots and explosions.

According to the weekly, Mosad agents have recently arrived in the United States with new information about Hamas activity, including a list of people who are believed to be members of the Hamas leadership. According to the information gathered so far, it appears that Hamas is supported by some 20,000 U.S. citizens, of whom some 300 to 500 are members of armed squads.

Reportage on al-'Abid's Assassination, Reaction

Fatah Accuses Israeli Intelligence

JN0311190594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement has accused Israeli intelligence organs of assassinating journalist Hani al-'Abid, who was assassinated in a carbomb in one of Gaza streets. This came in a joint statement distributed this morning. The statement is signed by the Fatah Movement; the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the Islamic Jihad; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; and the Palestinian People's Party. The statement calls for a general strike in the Gaza Strip today to protest al-'Abid assassination. The statement also calls on the Palestinian people to express their anger and to denounce the crime.

Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, director general of the Palestinian Police, condemned the assassination of Hani al-'Abid. He said that the Palestinian Police will reveal anything reached during the ongoing investigation in this regard.

The press office at the Palestinian Information Ministry issued a statement in which it denounced the premeditated explosion in which brother martyr Hani al-'Abid was killed. The statement adds: The reaction of the Palestinian people and authority constitutes a strong blow to those who aimed at encroaching the unity of the Palestinian people.

The funeral of martyr Hani al-'Abid, who was killed in a carbomb incident in one of Gaza streets, took place in Gaza this afternoon.

More details in the following report by our correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza:

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] This afternoon, thousands of people participated in the funeral of martyr journalist Hani al-'Abid in the Grand 'Umari Mosque. The funeral procession left the martyr's house in Hayy al-Rimal in Gaza for the martyr's cemetery in al-Shuja'iyah. Al-'Abid was martyred yesterday evening when his private car was blown up when he was driving it home after

ending his work as a lecturer at the Science and Technology University in Khan Yunus.

Thousands of Palestinian police participated in the funeral and worked to maintain security and to prevent any traffic jams. Participants raised black flags as an expression of their anger and denunciation of this ugly criminal act. The participants called for national unity as the only solution to abort plots.

The national and Islamic Palestinian factions condemned this ugly act. Six factions—Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP, DFLP, and the People's Party—issued a statement in which they called on the Palestinian people to express their anger and denunciation of this crime and to participate in the funeral. The statement also announces that all Islamic and national Palestinian factions strongly denounce the premeditated crime by the treacherous hands manipulated by the desire for the destruction of all our Palestinian people.

In a separate statement distributed in Gaza today, the Fatah Movement held Israel and its agents fully responsible. Fatah called on the sons of the Palestinian people, their factions, and forces to close ranks and to adopt a responsible stand to abort these attempts.

The movement offered condolences to the family of martyr al-'Abid and to the Palestinian people on his martyrdom. [end recording]

PA Official Holds Israel Responsible

JN0311130494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200
GMT 3 Nov 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the occupied territories]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Palestinian official has accused the Israeli security forces of assassinating Hani al-'Abid, one of the activists of the Islamic Jihad Movement, in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip yesterday by blowing up his car in front of the Technology College where he works as a teacher.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, has said that the Palestinian security institutions are investigating the assassination incident. He accused Israeli intelligence of perpetrating the operation, noting that it was carried out in a sophisticated manner. He said that the car was blown up by a remote-control device, a method not used by the Palestinians.

Israel accused Hani al-'Abid of having been involved in the killing of two Israeli soldiers near the Erez checkpoint on 20 May.

PA's Abu-Zayidah Discusses Assassination

TA0311180994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, in charge of the Israeli desk in the PA, by Rafi Reshef in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Reshef] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, why do you believe Israel is responsible for the assassination of Hani al-'Abid?

[Abu-Zayidah] Three facts are already known: first, the professionalism of the assassination. I do not think any element other than Israel could have done it so professionally.

[Reshef] If you are familiar with the details, can you tell us what was so professional about it?

[Abu-Zayidah] The attack was directed against a specific person; an explosive charge was planted under the driver's seat. The Israelis would know that al-'Abid himself used to drive his car. Apparently those responsible for the assassination took care that nobody else would be harmed. The second fact is that to the best of my knowledge nobody else was interested in Hani al-'Abid. Israel accused him of being responsible for the murder of two Israeli soldiers at the Erez checkpoint some time ago and has constantly demanded that he be detained and tried. Third, I believe that in the three weeks following the Tel Aviv attack Israelis—Rabin, the government, Mosad officials—hinted that....

[Reshef, interrupting] Yes, this point is clear. Permit me to ask you, however, whether the Palestinian Authority [PA] interrogated Hani al-'Abid? Was he under detention?

[Abu-Zayidah] Hani al-'Abid was interrogated for 20 days, but he denied having anything to do with the murder of the two soldiers at the Erez checkpoint.

[Reshef] On the face of it the assassination of a prominent Islamic Jihad activist should make things easier for you, especially seeing that this man attacked two Israeli soldiers. The PA was supposed to deal with this matter.

[Abu-Zayidah] This is a mistake. You could say that from the military or intelligence aspects his assassination was an achievement, but from the political viewpoint it is an extremely complex business which will make things difficult for us.

[Reshef] Why?

[Abu-Zayidah] By carrying out this assassination Israel is in fact telling the PA that it does not trust it and that henceforth it will deal itself with all those suspected of being involved in the murder of Israelis. On the other hand, those who will feel threatened by Israel will tell the PA that it is no longer responsible for them and that they themselves will retaliate and exact vengeance. You heard what 'Abdallah al-Shami said in this respect. What this means is that we are proceeding in the direction of the Lebanonization of the Gaza Strip, which is bad both for Israel and for us.

[Reshef] Are you implying that such an operation can lead to mutual assassinations among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and Fatah people within the Gaza Strip?

[Abu-Zayidah] No, I am still optimistic, and I do not believe there will be internal assassinations.

[Reshef] So what do you mean by Lebanonization?

[Abu-Zayidah] This means that Israel will shift the theater of operations between itself and the rejectionist organizations to the autonomy area, a thing that will weaken....

[Reshef, interrupting] Based on your familiarity with these organizations, when they threaten to operate in Tel Aviv should we take them seriously?

[Abu-Zayidah] After the al-'Abid incident I certainly am taking this seriously. I believe that it only exacerbates the situation and does not serve our interests at all.

'Arafat Urged To Provide Security

TA0311155294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud al-Zahhar, a leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to prevent Jews from entering the Gaza Strip so that they can not plant bombs. He also called on Yasir 'Arafat to take action against collaborators inside and outside the PA, to stop the negotiations with Israel at once, and to provide the Gaza Strip with secure borders.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at the funeral of Hani al-'Abid, who was killed yesterday in a car explosion, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the leader of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, said that his organization would retaliate in the heart of Tel Aviv for al-'Abid's slaying.

Earlier it was reported that the Palestinian police arrested four Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip for distributing leaflets accusing the Israeli security services of being responsible for al-'Abid's death.

'Arafat Asked To Leave al-'Abid Funeral

TA0311134094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] When trying to participate in the funeral of Islamic Jihad activist Hani al-'Abid, who was killed yesterday when his car blew up, head of the Palestinian Autonomy Yasir 'Arafat was shamefully told to leave by mourners. All the Palestinian organizations, including Fatah and the rejectionist front, today issued a leaflet blaming the Israeli Mosad for al-'Abid's assassination. Oren Kohen, head of the Arab desk, reports:

Hani al-'Abid's murder in a car bomb explosion has apparently lead to a unification of forces in the territories. Fatah and the rejectionist organizations issued a joint pamphlet pinpointing the blame for al-'Abid's murder on the Mosad. That did not prevent the Islamic Jihad from turning Yasir 'Arafat away from the al-Am'ari Mosque where funeral prayers were being said

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for the deceased. Members of Islamic Jihad's military arm, the al-Qasim platoons [pelugot al-qasim], fired in the air when they saw the Palestinian police and Yasir 'Arafat entering the mosque to participate in the funeral. The shots and the derogatory calls by the participants convinced 'Arafat to change his plan to say a prayer in memory of the deceased, and he left the site.

Earlier, Furayh Abu-Middayn, in charge of the PA's judicial portfolio, said there is no doubt that al-'Abid's assassination was the work of the Mosad.

Following the prayers in the mosque, al-'Abid's funeral procession, in which thousands participated, left for the martyrs' cemetery near the Jabalyah refugee camp. Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders charge the PA with incompetence in defending them against Israel and with cooperating with the Zionist enemy. Therefore, the killing of al-'Abid, the first person detained by the PA on suspicion of involvement in the murder of two Israeli soldiers, is now causing further erosion in 'Arafat's already shaky position.

Islamic Jihad Apologizes for Funeral Behavior

JN0411065094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement has apologized for the irresponsible behavior of its members toward Yasir 'Arafat at the funeral of Hani 'Abid, one of the movement's leaders, at the Grand 'Umari Mosque. 'Arafat was forced to leave the mosque after being received with shouts of denunciation.

In a statement it issued, the Islamic Jihad Movement said that this behavior does not represent the movement's political and ethical course in dealing with political differences within the Palestinian house.

A meeting was held yesterday between Yasir 'Arafat and Muhammad al-Hindi, one of the movement's leaders in Gaza, thanks to mediation by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. 'Arafat's Adviser Nabil Sha'th said that the Islamic Jihad Movement and Hamas called on the head of the Palestinian Authority to offer his condolences to the family of the deceased. Sha'th added that the Palestinians must now show they are united.

Palestinian Forces Alliance Mourns

JN0311195694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Statement by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Zionist occupation authorities have assassinated mujahid [struggler] Hani 'Abid, a university lecturer, a prominent journalist, and a leading member of the Islamic Jihad Movement with a boobytrapped car. The

assassination is in implementation of the enemy government's decision to launch a war against the Palestinian opposition by every means.

The assassination of mujahid Hani al-'Abid inside the Gaza Strip, amid complete silence from the subservient self-rule authority, and even in collusion with the occupation authorities in implementation of a pledge which 'Arafat made to President Clinton during his recent Middle East tour, confirms the depth of the crisis facing the occupation authorities and its subordinate self-rule authority, the increasing isolation of 'Arafat and his police and administration from the masses, and the failure of the efforts seeking to weaken and liquidate the valiant intifadah.

The Alliance of Palestinian Forces, which extends condolences to the family of the martyr and his colleagues in the Islamic Jihad Movement, mourns the death of the hero martyr to all our Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic peoples. It also stresses that the assassination is a brazen proof of the fragility of the Oslo-Washington agreement. It also urges the forces of the alliance to pool efforts to escalate the intifadah and struggle through all means until we topple that agreement and until our people achieve their legitimate rights to liberation, repatriation, and national independence. The Alliance also pledges to our masses that the blood of hero martyr Hani al-'Abid will not be in vain.

[Signed] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces

Radio Mourns Death Journalist

JN0311191794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man, announces to the masses of our Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation the death of Palestinian journalist Hani al-'Abid.

Hani al-'Abid collaborated with the staff of al-Quds Radio during its beginnings. He helped spread the intifadah news from Gaza City and Gaza Strip through al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man.

As they bid farewell to one of those who collaborated with them, the staff of al-Quds Radio pledge to the soul of the martyr to preserve and defend the values and the principles that bonded us together in the service of the Palestine question.

God is with us. Victory is near and together we proceed on the path of liberating land and man.

Fatah Rejects 'Arafat Idea for Gaza Meetings

MM0311160594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Central Committee Rejects 'Arafat Proposal for the Committee To Hold Its Future Meetings in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah's Central Committee has decided to draw up a new mechanism for the continuation of its work in the future. It also decided to hold regular meetings at the beginning of every month in Tunis, al-'Arish, or Cairo.

The committee, however, rejected with an overwhelming majority a proposal submitted by 'Arafat suggesting that the Central Committee meetings be held in Gaza, despite the fact that 'Arafat informed the committee members that he had Rabin's approval for the members to enter the autonomy areas.

These developments occurred at the committee's emergency meeting concluded in Tunis yesterday and attended by President Yasir 'Arafat and the majority of the Central Committee members with the exception of al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and Hakam Bal'awi, who were unable to attend, and Khalid al-Hasan who died in Morocco last month after a long illness.

Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the atmosphere at the meeting was positive and free from tension, particularly as the committee had not met for over four months. That is why, according to the sources, it was necessary to concentrate on the discussion of important issues for lack of time. At the end of the meeting, the Central Committee issued a statement stressing the need for speeding up the drafting of an organizational formula for the participation of Fatah leaders inside [the territories] in the central leaderships on the basis of the movement's bylaws.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there is an inclination to appoint new members from inside and from abroad in the committee. The most prominent candidates are Faysal al-Husayni, Zakariya al-Agha, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

In its statement, the committee emphasized the importance and necessity of regular PLO Executive Committee meetings as it is the body from which the National Authority derives its jurisdiction and it is the central leadership of the Palestinian people wherever they are.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Central Committee members impressed upon 'Arafat the need to hold Executive Committee meetings, bearing in mind that most members are inside [the territories], so as not to undermine the National Authority's jurisdiction.

According to the statement, the committee discussed a comprehensive report submitted by President 'Arafat on the situation inside [the territories] against a background of Israeli intransigence and the siege and closure imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and on the series of agreements concluded with the Israeli Government including the agreements that have been implemented and the ones that have not been implemented because of Israeli dallying and procrastination, especially in connection with the issues of the elections

and withdrawal of the Israeli Army from all the towns, villages, and populated areas in the West Bank to make it possible for the National Authority to assume its powers in the rest of the West Bank. The Central Committee also discussed the peace process on the Arab tracks, especially the Jordanian-Israeli track, and the attempts to divide the Arab parties concerned and destroy Arab coordination through a unilateral approach. The committee decided that national and pan-Arab interests necessitated insistence on Arab coordination to prevent future conflicts and to solve the current problems and excesses within a collective and responsible Arab context in order to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

Sources close to the meeting have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the general trend at the meeting was against escalation of tension with Jordan, the aim being to prevent Israel from exploiting such escalation, particularly on the issue of Jerusalem which is the main issue, not the holy places.

Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meetings focused on numerous important issues, especially the negotiations, relations with Jordan, Hamas, Fatah's internal situation, and relations between the Palestinian National Authority and Fatah. He said that there were long discussions about the performance of the National Authority's institutions, especially the police force.

Al-Hasan, who is one of those opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, said that it was agreed that the elections inside [the territories] should be held in accordance with the independence declaration which provides for democracy, pluralism, freedom to form parties, and human rights.

Al-Hasan said that Hamas had a right to participate in the elections. He also stressed that it was agreed to calm the situation with Jordan and not to embark on a confrontation that would only benefit Israel. He referred in this connection to the positive statements made by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan on Jerusalem. Al-Hasan said that there was a problem open to discussion, focusing on the relationship between the National Authority and Fatah and which of the two leads the other: Does the party lead the state or does the state lead the party?

PA's Ghawshah Warns Closure May Lead to Violence

TA3010143794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Oct 94 p B3

[Report on interview with Dr. Samir Ghawshah, PA labor minister, by Ori Nir in Jericho; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking in his little office in Jericho, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, the labor minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], says he feels like a bound prisoner in an air-conditioned cell. Without being able to

send workers to Israel and without receiving international aid to create more jobs as tens of thousands of workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank remain unemployed, Ghawshah admits that his office is almost totally ineffectual.

Ghawshah believes that the closure imposed on the territories by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin harms not only the Palestinian workers in Israel, but the Palestinian society and economy as a whole.

The resulting instability will not only breed poverty but rend the social fabric and preclude the security and stability which are necessary to attract investment. At the same time, the PA's credibility is also undermined.

Just as during his guerrilla days in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Tunisia, as the political leader and military commander of a small Palestinian faction (the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front), he still considers himself a fedayee, a freedom fighter who is prepared to die, but "a different kind of fedayee." Ghawshah still sees himself as someone fighting to liberate the Palestinian people from Israeli occupation but "through other ways," which in his opinion are no less strewn with obstacles, frustration, and anger than the past.

Ghawshah, 52, was born in Jerusalem and is a dentist by profession. He laughingly explains that he preferred "a career as a fedayee over a medical career." In 1967, he fled to Jordan and helped establish his small Marxist-oriented group. In 1974, the organization joined the rejectionist front, which rejected the decision by the PLO mainstream to establish a limited Palestinian state "on any part of liberated Palestinian territory." For several years, Ghawshah enjoyed Iraqi, Libyan, and especially Syrian support. After 1982, his organization established its headquarters in Damascus. Syria supplied him and his 600 fighters with weapons and ammunition to carry out terrorist attacks. Some of his squads attempted to infiltrate into Israel but were unsuccessful in most cases. The two successful terrorist attacks attributed to Ghawshah were planting a bomb in EL Al's Istanbul office in 1970 and a bomb in downtown Jerusalem in May 1975 which killed an Israeli citizen and injured three others. Today Ghawshah has returned to live in Jerusalem and has offices in Gaza city and Jericho.

[HA'ARETZ] What are the ramifications of the closure on the employment situation in the Gaza Strip?

[Ghawshah] They are very serious. According to our data, prior to the closure 24,160 workers out of 28,500 Gazans with entry permits crossed into Israel every day. In other words, the closure affects 26,000 Gaza families and each Palestinian family numbers seven people on average. Before the closure, approximately 30,000 unemployed were registered at our offices. These are just the people who listed themselves. The number of unemployed has now almost doubled. In our estimate, we have reached 45 percent unemployment in the Gaza Strip,

without including the workers employed in Israel. This means a steep rise in poverty which has social ramifications.

[HA'ARETZ] For example?

[Ghawshah] Social tension. Crime. Do you remember the riot which took place recently at the Erez checkpoint when they torched buses and went on a rampage? Well, once again you are turning Gaza into a powder keg which can explode at any moment. This has an effect on the public's mental condition. But the problem is bigger than that. The ban on exporting goods and agricultural produce from the Gaza Strip is making things worse. It is not just agricultural produce. If a certain factory cannot export to Israel, and the goods pile up, then one needs less workers and unemployment goes up some more. We have not even begun discussing the political ramifications. The majority of the public expects the peace process to resolve its problems and create job opportunities. The public is learning that instead of resolving problems, the peace process is creating new difficulties. This leads people to take political stands. First of all, they start doubting the process, and the number of those opposed to it increases. Second, they lose faith in the PA. There is mounting frustration and disappointment which may spark a new intifadah. Do not forget that the economic factor was one of the causes behind the intifadah. Besides, this has a detrimental effect on Israel's credibility. People are saying that Israel is not really committed to the agreements it signed or to the peace process. The steps being taken are not indicative of a peace mentality but rather of an occupation mentality. This is collective punishment. The danger lies in not strengthening those who are opposed to the resumption of violence. The occupation has led to violence in the past, and the occupation mentality may well foster violence in the future.

[HA'ARETZ] But these steps are a reaction to Palestinian violence. They are taken out of security considerations.

[Ghawshah] I do not view the security argument as sufficient. Rabin himself said that those who carried out actions detrimental to security were not workers with official permits (to work in Israel). So why are the workers being punished? One should also consider the discrimination, which we regard as racial discrimination, against Palestinian workers.

[HA'ARETZ] What do you mean?

[Ghawshah] Every Israeli laborer receives unemployment compensation. However, when a Palestinian worker is laid off, nobody bothers to compensate him. Here the workers are jobless due to no fault of their own.

[HA'ARETZ] The Israeli Government has now increased the number of foreign workers permitted to work in Israel.

[Ghawshah] We all know that the Palestinian workers are more experienced and better able to communicate with the Israelis. They can reach a higher degree of mutual understanding. The foreign workers are different. They require housing and cause other problems in Israeli society. Crime, and such things.

[HA'ARETZ] Why is there so much bitterness among the Palestinian public regarding the agreement between Israel and Jordan?

[Ghawshah] In principle, we support any agreement between Israel and any Arab country which promotes the peace process. Such agreements, however, are not the solution, since the Palestinian problem was and remains the heart of the conflict. The Palestinians feel left out. We were forced to accept a two-stage arrangement: an interim accord and a permanent arrangement. And then what happens? Israel reaches permanent arrangements with other parties, while still procrastinating over the interim accord with us.

[HA'ARETZ] How does the Palestinian Labor Ministry plan to create new jobs?

[Ghawshah] Our main goal is to reduce unemployment. We had hoped that the agreement with Israel would lead to a rise in the number of Palestinians permitted to work inside the Green Line. However, the exact opposite happened. That is why we are trying to attract investment to create new jobs. But investors need a climate of security and stability. On another level, we are investing efforts in training programs that will help professionals develop skills corresponding to today's international technological advances. We are also trying to pass a bill that will regulate labor relations between employer and employees as well as encourage cooperative ventures.

[HA'ARETZ] Are you disappointed with the small scope of foreign investment in the territories so far, especially on the part of wealthy Palestinians living abroad?

[Ghawshah] Everywhere in the world, foreign investors are interested in seeing profits. Potential investors tell me: 'How can I invest here when there is a strike or closure or something else every day. It is better to invest somewhere else.' The investors hear statements by Ehud Barak who says that Israel will reconquer Gaza. This has an effect not only on private investors but on the donor countries as well. My feeling is that many people were originally prepared to invest money but have been made hesitant by recent developments. These people keep on asking me: 'When will Israel withdraw? Will it continue implementing the agreement? Will we be given production and marketing incentives?' We are doing the best we can but the main responsibility lies with Israel.

[HA'ARETZ] Why?

[Ghawshah] Because it still has the power. And if it fails to implement the very basis of the agreement it signed—then how can we continue? We cannot permit ourselves

to become the veil which conceals an unseen Israeli occupation. This is an impossible situation.

Officials Hail Jordanian Stance on Jerusalem

JN0411114294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Nov 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by Musa Hawamidah in Hebron and Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's statements at the Casablanca conference about handing over the awqaf [religious endowments] to the Palestinians as soon as they receive authority over Jerusalem were widely welcomed by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

In statements to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, the PNA's minister of health, said: His highness the crown prince's statements eliminated any misunderstanding and it was clear that his highness's statements showed understanding and explained things in a unambiguous manner.

He added that Jordan will take care of the holy places from now until a political solution to the Jerusalem issue is reached, when the PNA can take charge of them, in order to avoid a vacuum. And now, he said, we should say thank you to Jordan.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, the PNA's minister of post and communications, said that His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's statements had eased the tension and that the issue of the holy places is no longer a problem for the Palestinian side.

Al-Ashhab said: All of East Jerusalem is for the Palestinians and is the capital of the Palestinian state. He added that East Jerusalem must return to Palestinian sovereignty and that it is part of the territories occupied in 1967.

On the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the post minister said: Any progress on any track serves the other tracks. We have supported the agreement, with certain reservations about the agreement's clauses on water, refugees, and Jerusalem. Crown Prince Hasan's statements settled the dispute over Jerusalem. It still remains for us to discuss the issues of water and refugees.

Speaking to AL-DUSTUR from his office in Gaza, Ahmad Sa'id Bayyud al-Tamimi, under secretary of the PNA's Interior Ministry, said that Crown Prince Hasan's statements completely settled the dispute over Jerusalem.

He added: Issues should be settled with the Jordanian side through dialogue. We consider Jordan a country with a special relationship to the Palestinian issue. We are one family and one people. We would like our relationship with the Jordanians to remain close, proceeding from the unity of our goal, traditions, and blood ties.

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He said: It is true that from time to time the relations get somewhat heated, but this is a result of political developments in the region. It is natural to have some differences in viewpoints on some issues. However, dialogue and meetings are the ideal way to solve all issues, which is something that will achieve tranquility and peacefulness for our two peoples. We do not deny Jordan's role in supporting the Palestinian cause through the long days. We hope that this support will continue, proceeding from the ties of blood and brotherhood between the two fraternal peoples.

Al-Tamimi said: We consider Jordan and its people the strong backbone of our people and cause. God willing, there will be only joint work to achieve the higher interest of our two peoples. This should lead to positive reflections on the entire region.

PFLP: Casablanca Conference Success for Israel

TA0311185094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
3 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifraji]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has said that the Casablanca economic conference was a clear expression of the degree of official Arab collapse, of subordination to the United States, and of a disgraceful rush toward and embrace of Israel.

A PFLP press statement distributed to journalists in Gaza yesterday decried the embrace of Israel and the end of the Arab boycott against it at a time when fraternal Arab states, like Iraq and Libya, are being blockaded and boycotted and while Israel still occupies Arab lands, maintains a siege, tightens the economic noose on the Palestinian people, and refuses to recognize Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The PFLP believes the Casablanca conference constitutes a success for the Israeli policy of normalization and expansion after it failed to achieve this goal in the wake of al-Sadat's signing of the Camp David accords. Moreover, the conference turned Israel not only into a recognized state in the Arab homeland, but also into the master of the region.

The statement stressed that the grave official Arab trend does not represent the inclinations of the Arab peoples and nation.

Paper: Casablanca Conference Opened New Era

TA0311184594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
3 Nov 94 p 11

[Editorial: "What Will Happen After the Casablanca Conference?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A careful reading of the final communique issued by the Casablanca economic summit indicates that the countries and individuals who

participated in the summit actually want to create from this event a launching pad toward fundamental economic changes in the Middle East and North Africa. Those changes are supposed to foster a stable political climate under which relations of cooperation and free commercial exchanges among the states of this region could be developed in a way that would ultimately lead to the creation of a new economic group comprising the states of the Middle East and the Arab Maghreb.

Perhaps the first thing that catches one's attention in this communique, which can be described as a preliminary announcement on the establishment of that group, is the absence of nationalistic characteristics and the domination of economic tendencies that have been reinforced by the new world order. This, in fact, is evidence of the almost total collapse of traditional Arab frameworks and structures that were set up in conditions of confrontation with Israel, foremost of all the Arab boycott regimes against Israel and its agencies, especially after the Casablanca conference decided to gradually abolish this boycott.

In fact, this communique signifies a promising possibility for the beginning of a new era in the region's history in which barriers are eliminated and everyone moves forward toward prosperity and tranquility. Nevertheless, there is a big difference between announcing a new era and entering into this era and working out practical realities that overcome all current negative aspects and obstacles in order to reach the desired horizons.

Hence, the Palestinian entry into the new era will not be easy, even though the climate of peace has opened the doors wide to an almost complete international understanding of Palestinian security and development needs and despite the fact that since the signing of the Declaration of Principles the Palestinian Authority has received promises and pledges from the donor countries to assist in the establishment of an infrastructure and to support the Palestinian economy during the coming stage.

These countries are supposed to honor their pledges, especially since many Palestinian economic projects the planning of which has already been completed are only waiting for funding. Some Arab and foreign countries are reportedly willing to participate in joint projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This trend must be enhanced and developed in the interest of the Palestinian economy. Nevertheless, the initiatives that emanated from the Casablanca summit, particularly by the donor countries, are not sufficient and do not meet expectations.

Undoubtedly, the Casablanca economic summit is only a first step on a long road. This road must begin with the realization of legitimate Palestinian aspirations, because only this will make the Palestinian people feel that there is justice and fairness, and only this will promote the region's reconstruction and prosperity on sound and firm foundations.

Authority To Receive Armored Vehicles From Russia

TA0311164894 Jerusalem AL-Q'JDS in Arabic
3 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the Palestinian National Authority will receive from Russia armored vehicles for the Palestinian police forces in Gaza and Jericho. The Russian company supplying the vehicles said that the deal is free of charge. [passage omitted]

These vehicles, 45 of which were requested by the PLO, are of the BRDM-2 type. [passage omitted]

Subayh on Rabin Call To Review Oslo Accord

NC3010103794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT
30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council (PNC) secretary and Palestine's representative to the Arab League, has expressed his astonishment at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's request to review the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement, particularly the issues in the agreement relating to security.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Muhammad Subayh said that such a call is considered a dangerous

precedent in international relations, particularly since the Oslo agreement was witnessed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and was signed at the White House under the sponsorship of the United States and the Russian Federation. It has also been included among the UN documents and we have started implementing half the agreement.

Subayh added that this call raises many fears, particularly since Israel is stalling on the implementation of the first part of the agreement. In addition, Mr. Rabin's statement casts black clouds over the optimistic peace atmosphere.

The Palestinian official, PNC Secretary General Muhammad Subayh, has affirmed that the Palestinian people accepted this agreement unwillingly, but are adhering to its implementation to the letter and spirit. Israel has to do the same and implement it according to Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy which topped the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Subayh affirmed again that peace cannot be established except between two parties. He pointed out that such a statement from Rabin encourages extremism, particularly in Israel.

Yitzhaq Rabin told the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the Oslo agreement contains contradictions that need to be rectified so that it can become applicable, particularly in the security field.

Algeria

FIS Leaders' Reimprisonment 'Not Unlikely'

MM0311124094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p4

[Report by Salah Jainil: "Cheik Sahraoui Does Not Rule Out Possibility of Reimprisonment of Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Cheik Abdelbaki Sahraoui, member of the Shura Council of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], has stated that it is not unlikely that FIS leader Abbassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj will be moved from the residence where they are under house arrest and returned to prison, following the failure of the "national dialogue" for which President Liamine Zeroual, in his speech on the 40th anniversary of the Algerian liberation war, held the FIS leaders partly responsible.

Cheik Sahraoui, one of the FIS founders, was answering questions put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at the end of the seminar he held Tuesday evening at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies where he spoke about the Algerian people's struggle for independence, reviewing the most important stages of that struggle up to the current serious situation in the country.

In reply to a question on claims about differences between Madani and Belhadj, Sahraoui denied any differences between the two and said that they had agreed to accept the principle of dialogue provided it is preceded by the elimination of the injustices, including freedom for the FIS leaders to contact, meet, and consult one another.

Asked if Belhadj and Madani were to some extent responsible for the failure of the national dialogue because they did not respond to what were considered by some to be "reconciliatory initiatives" by President Zeroual, the FIS official said that he found such charges strange. Sahraoui said: "How could a person in prison be expected to go to the mountains and reach understanding with his followers? We have no right to make decisions, because we are scattered. Some of us are in prison, some in the United States, and others are in Europe. What is required is that the FIS Shura Council members (27) should be allowed to meet in order to be able to make our decision."

He said that the regime wanted the FIS leaders to go along with its own decisions. He added that the regime sometimes calls for dialogue and other times for confrontation, and makes unilateral decisions, but that method does not figure in FIS calculations.

On President Zeroual's position, Cheik Sahraoui said that he could not say that the Algerian president is not sincere in his efforts to find a solution to the crisis, but he

added that President Zeroual is not the regime's decisionmaker and that the generals are pushing him in the direction they want.

Dialogue's Demise Blamed on Distrust of Military

MM0411110694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Two Points of Disagreement Between Algerian Authorities and Salvation Front: General Pardon and Defense and Interior Ministries"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Algerian and Maghreb sources have confirmed that the secret negotiations between the Algerian authorities and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders reached an advanced stage before their collapse last week. The sources said that the negotiations President Liamine Zeroual initiated at the end of last year before his assumption of the presidency included the questions of power sharing and a mutual pardon between the two sides.

The sources pointed out that the negotiations were obstructed by two major points. The first was the insistence of the authorities and a group of generals that the FIS leave the defense and interior ministries to the generals so that they could guarantee the continuation of the agreement to be reached between them and the FIS. The sources added that the FIS leaders' reply was to neutralize the Army because—in its capacity as "the country's national Army—it is entitled to guarantee public order, hence any agreement reached would fall in that framework."

The sources stressed that the leaders rejected the principle of the generals' assuming the two ministries, because they are not trusted at all. And that they demanded that the cabinet and power question should be left to whatever quarter wins a majority if the canceled elections are completed or new legislative elections are held after a transitional phase under completely normal conditions.

The second point was the mutual pardon question. The two parties accused one another of committing excesses against civilians and the innocent. The sources pointed out that the leaders agreed to the general pardon principle without dropping the personal right of those harmed to take legal action if the people who murdered their relatives are known, or if they know which quarter committed the crime. The FIS accuses members of the "Special Forces" of deliberately killing hundreds of its supporters, who, according to it, are killed at night and their bodies left on the streets. The sources added that the generals said that that would open the door to revenge, hence threatening stability and reconciliation in the future.

The sources believe that the latter issue would have been resolved had the negotiations continued. But "the disagreement focused on the FIS leaders' refusal to offer guarantees that corruption and embezzlement files

would not be opened." A source quoted Cheik Abassi Madani as saying: "They are public rights which no one is entitled to abandon without referring to the nation." The generals insisted that the corruption file be closed. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Meets With Province Cadres

LD0311150494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Mostaganem Province the interior minister [Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif] held a meeting with the provinces' cadres. The minister met the cadres and the citizens and listened to their concerns. [passage omitted]

[Begin Cherif recording] Yet the question is still being posed: Why the children? Why the children who had volunteered to join their parents and senior officials of the quarter and the province who were supposed to start the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of our great revolution?

All of us have experienced scouting conditions and all of us remember the joy of volunteering. However, people like us who are relatively old did not meet the same fate because even [French] colonialism used to respect the lives of the children and the innocent. [end recording]

Minister Warns Media To Observe Statutes

LD0311151394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As we promised earlier, we now present to you the letter from Communications Minister Benamar Zerhouni addressed to the publicly owned and privately owned media:

[Begin Zerhouni recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Gentlemen, officials of the publicly and privately owned media, it gives me pleasure to welcome you and to thank you for responding to our invitation. I take this opportunity to extend to you warmest congratulations on the 40th anniversary of Algeria's glorious revolution. The purpose of my request to meet with you today is to read you the text of a letter which each one of you will be receiving from me. This letter will be circulated to all officials responsible for the national, public, and privately owned media.

Gentlemen, the consolidation of democracy, which is one of the established aims of the authorities of the transitional phase, is naturally accompanied by the freedom of political action as well as freedom of the press. It is a choice which has been affirmed more than once and at the highest level by the national authorities. Add to this, and regarding the pluralism of the media and the freedom of the press, the state is making every

effort through the assistance it provides to guarantee the prosperity of each one of them. The national press can testify to that.

The state, out of its concern to entrench real democratic practices and traditions in the country, recalls on every occasion the correct bases of media pluralism and the freedom of the press. These bases are manifested in Algeria and in other countries of the world in the preservation of rights and the respecting of duties by every citizen. The Algerian Constitution stipulates this quite clearly in Article 60 which states that all freedoms shall be exercised by every citizen within respect for the recognized rights of others within the Constitution.

With regard to the activity of the press, the law of 3 April 1990 points out the duties of those involved in the media as a profession, especially by way of Articles 3, 36, and 40 coupled with Article Two regarding rights in the media. In consideration of these provisions, which are known to all those concerned, everyone has the right to express astonishment at the increasingly regrettable behavior of the media. Security data about a situation in which the blood of Algerian people is being spilled has become the object of a so-called press scoop. This violates the texts of current laws at the expense of cautious action by the national security forces, sometimes reaching the extent of violating judicial investigation procedures. This provides criminals and murderers with publicity contrary to ethical standards. Added to this is the spreading of false news with much hubbub relating to politics and the circulation of appeals calling for violence. This cannot be acceptable regardless of its reasons. Even the state symbols have been harmed and the fundamental values of national unity and of the Algerian entity have not been spared. We must not forget the reporting of statements by foreign parties which have not hidden their enmity toward Algeria.

It is necessary, therefore, to recall here that such writings and pronouncements are fraught with dangerous meanings. They are, furthermore, being leaked to the Algerian people at a time when they are facing with dignity the most difficult circumstances in their history. And it is journalists themselves who have tragically paid a high price.

Is it worth mentioning here the astonishment of the citizens themselves over this situation? The situation requires everyone to shoulder his responsibilities. The state is driven by sincere determination to encourage the freedom of the press; it has been encouraging the latter to fulfill its duties and to criticize in a constructive manner, to help in avoiding mistakes or to correct mistakes—including mistakes made by the state.

The state is working for the triumph of democracy; the freedom of the press is a basic constituent of democracy. In the name of this democracy, it is the duty of the state—and particularly its present responsibility—to see that the law is respected—the whole of the law because any breach of the law is considered an infringement of the rights of others.

Proceeding from this spirit, the state calls on the national media to be patient and to absorb the special circumstances of the present situation. In other words, to watch over strict respect for the standards and ethics of the profession. For its part the state will from now on ensure respect for the law by everyone.

'Nihilism' of Political Parties Criticized

LD0311201394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In his speech on the occasion of the 1 November revolution, Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, announced that he was inviting the political forces to talk directly to the people through presidential elections. However, the political parties have shouted back: No.

The political forces could not reach a common platform at the various stages of the dialogue and stubbornly rejected the idea of seeking the people's opinion. But where is the solution at a time when people continue to pay with their lives? Fathi Saidi puts this question in the following report:

[Saidi] The political parties in the national political spectrum have been at loggerheads about nearly everything. It appears, however, that they only agree on one thing: To topple the regime and destroy any form of rule or order in Algeria. In other words, they want to bring about chaos and the law of the jungle.

How on earth could they build the Algeria state at a time when they only believe in nihilism?

Let us first explain very briefly to our dear listeners the meaning of nihilism: Nihilism is an ideology that calls for the destruction of everything; that is, nihilists seek to destroy the world completely and then think how to rebuild it.

However, historical facts have shown that nihilism was the brain-child of abnormal people, people whose minds have been obsessed by rancor, eagerness for blind vengeance, and stupid selfishness. Nihilism is the sign of someone who is absolutely desperate.

Knowingly or not, the parties' rejection of all the efforts of the authorities in place to find a solution to the crisis which has been facing the country is a clear expression of nihilist instinct and inclinations. Yes, the organization and the cancellation of the legislative elections as well as the holding of a referendum on the Constitution, with no guarantee that such a constitution will be respected, were mistakes. Mr. Liamine Zeroual reiterated this fact in his speech on the occasion of the anniversary marking the 1 November revolution.

However, the authorities have proposed, following talks with the parties, a number of forms for the dialogue. But the political parties and the rest of the political forces in the country have blessed the suicidal and nihilist

approach. Every side has been trying to realize all its demands at once, which has led to the emergence of reciprocal exclusion.

However, following the head of state's announcement on the organization of presidential elections, in which the people will have the last word, we find the same voices. These voices have always rejected everything and have always said no, making the same noise to cast doubts on the viability of such elections by rejecting them and viewing the decision to hold them as a dictatorial measure.

How remarkable! Where is the solution then in their opinion? How remarkable! Instead of being positive, they are still holding on to their nihilist ideology.

Citizens have, in general, been wondering why the schools? Why the factories? Why the public buses? Why the intellectuals? Why the imams? Why the state's cadres? And finally, why the children? Why are the whole people the target? Blows have been dealt to their interest, property, and public amenities. Blows have been dealt to even their right to life.

Nonetheless, voices can still be heard, calling for intensifying the war against the people. What will be the people's position toward those who have been dealing blows to them in the name of liberation and justice? Are there any other positive means for resolving our situation but violence, total rejection, and stubborn adherence to the realization of all partisan demands at once? Are the parties afraid of the direct dialogue with the people to which President Liamine Zeroual invited them in his speech to the nation on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the glorious November revolution?

Egypt

Paper Criticizes Rabin Government Stance on Peace

NC0411082994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT
4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM criticizes Israel's recent deceptive efforts to impose its own concept of peace in the Middle East. The paper says it believes that the Rabin government is nothing but the other face of Shamir's government, which called the West Bank Judaea and Samaria and clung to what it called the land of greater Israel, rejecting any talk about withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

In its editorial today the paper says that all the signs lead to the belief that Rabin's government is nothing but an improved picture of the Shamir government, a conviction resulting from the Rabin government's recent acts on various tracks.

The paper refers to the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo Accord, which has not yet been translated into tangible measures to encourage the Palestinian peace trend, because

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Rabin's government is still procrastinating intensely over implementing the first section of the accord on the transitional phase.

The paper says it regrets Israel's attempt to amend the Oslo Accord on the pretext that it contains provisions jeopardizing Israel's security. It stresses that such an attempt will cost the Israeli Government its credibility before Arab and world public opinion.

The paper also says it regrets the Israeli politicians' statements on Jerusalem, indicating that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. The paper says Jerusalem's future is subject to negotiations during the second phase of the Oslo Accord.

Musa Notes Progress in Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC0311151594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealt with the situation in the Arab world, the Casablanca conference, the peace process in the Middle East, and bilateral Egyptian-UAE relations.

Musa said he briefed President Mubarak today on the outcome of the Casablanca conference. He affirmed that the performance of all the members of the Egyptian delegation was honorable, especially in the economic aspects. [passage omitted]

Regarding Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's visit to Egypt scheduled to begin on Saturday, Musa said Ciller will hold talks with Egyptian officials on bilateral relations and boosting trade and investment in the two countries. [passage omitted] He said Turkey is an important country and that coordination between Turkey and Egypt on future developments is necessary. [passage omitted]

Asked about the extent of the progress in the talks on the Syrian-Israeli track, Musa said there is naturally progress in the talks. Christopher will not resume his contacts unless there is progress in the talks. [sentence as heard] However, no timetable for an Israel withdrawal from the Golan has been presented yet. He stressed that there is some optimism that can be expressed regarding the Syrian track. However, progress in the talks is linked to the principles agreed upon, namely full withdrawal from the Golan, the issue of normalization, and the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon. These are all related issues.

Musa expressed Egypt's readiness to help Lebanon. He said that he discussed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the initiative of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Three 'Dangerous Fugitive Terrorists' Killed

NC0311141394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Three dangerous fugitive terrorists were killed in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, in Upper Egypt last night.

Information was received that the three terrorists were hiding in a plantation. A police force dispatched to the area clashed with the terrorists, killing all three of them. Various weapons were seized from their bodies.

Reportage on Reactions to Flood, Fire

Al-Bashir Cables Mubarak

NC0311151494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (MENA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to President Husni Mubarak over the victims of and those afflicted by the floods and torrential rains that hit Egypt yesterday, Wednesday.

In the cable, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stated that the Sudanese Government and people had followed with deep concern reports about the rains and floods that swept some Upper Egyptian governorates. He conveyed his condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims and afflicted people, praying God Almighty to preserve Egypt.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has sent a similar cable to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Health Minister on Casualty Toll

NC0311154994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 3 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi visited the village of Durunkah, which was stricken by floods and fires yesterday. He was accompanied by the ministers of health, social affairs, local administration, petroleum, and supply.

Dr. Sidqi said the government will help the victims of the floods and fires. Those who have become homeless will be sheltered in empty houses in the governorate until new houses are built for them. He asked the citizens of Asyut to donate funds to help the victims, indicating that special bank accounts have been opened to receive donations. He also said that immediate compensation will be paid to the families of the dead and wounded.

Health Minister Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah said the number of dead is approximately 200 and the number of wounded is 70. Some 40 of the wounded have been treated and released while the remaining wounded are in the hospital under full medical care. The prime minister and his aides left Asyut for Cairo.

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Interior Ministry Increases Death Toll

NC0311171094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT
3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—The number of victims of the fires that broke out in Durunkah village in Asyut Governorate yesterday has risen to 265 persons.

An Interior Ministry source has stated that all fires that broke out in an oil depot in the village have been extinguished. Fire fighting and civil defense teams are continuing their work to rescue the injured.

Floods yesterday swept the governorates of al-Minya, Asyut, Suhaj, and Qina. Local government agencies in the governorates are counting the losses resulting from these floods.

Sidqi To Submit Report

NC0311221494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak in the next few hours about the inspection tour he carried out today with several other ministers to the flood-stricken areas in Asyut Governorate. The tour was made on the president's instructions to learn the facts of the situation and assess the extent of the damage caused by yesterday's heavy rains in every part of the governorate.

Dr. Sidqi said that at the beginning of his tour he held a meeting with the governorate's leading officials and notables, which was also attended by the ministers who accompanied him on his tour. He reported that Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id submitted a full report on the flood damage, noting that the death toll has reached 300 people. He also said only 20 injured people remain in the hospitals. [passage omitted]

Writer: Government Uses 'Terrorism' To Serve Goals

NC0211184694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Oct 94 p 7

[From the "A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan: "The Government Is Exaggerating the Issue of Terrorism in Order to Rule a Frightened People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is undoubtedly overstating the issue of terrorism for reasons that are absolutely unconnected to terrorism. The government is seeking to control a people who are afraid of the government and of terrorism. As a rule, a frightened people cannot ask for anything because they should be content with a morsel given by the government. Too much talk about terrorism will negate any talk about poor services in the fields of education and health. The talk about terrorism will also overshadow any talk about corruption because everyone will be busy fighting something called terrorism, which is used by the government to terrorize us.

It has become an established, unquestionable fact that the terrorist groups are bunches of misguided youths with insufficient education and no religious backgrounds or political drives. These few people cannot affect or change the rulers, because all their weapons put together cannot stand up against an armored vehicle. This group of youths have no influence on the people because all of them disagree with their actions. The people sympathize with them on just one point: namely, both are annoyed with the government and its deeds.

All sociologists confirm that terrorism is a short lived phenomenon among a peaceful, tolerant people. But terrorism can benefit from extreme contradictions in a society, such as unemployment among young people and corruption in the government. Unemployed youth can become hot-tempered or blasphemous when they see that they have no hope while the government is spending boundlessly. Poverty can always trigger blasphemy.

The government is exaggerating the issue of terrorism and is overemphasizing such incidents even though this might affect tourism and cause economic stagnation. It is the government which is paving the way for foreign media to distort Egypt's image, because it is the one blowing out of proportion events that occur almost every day in most countries, where democracy, tourism, or economy have never been shaken.

Obviously, the government is doing this deliberately in order to forestall any demand for democracy or any call for civil liberties. The government is exaggerating terrorism in order to keep the emergency law and extraordinary rulings in force and to rule the people with a fist of iron and fire, and all because of a few mobs who cannot harm the state. Furthermore, there are similar groups throughout the world.

But the government is pursuing this policy in order to abrogate the political parties' rights to hold meetings, campaign, and give services to the people. The government knows well that if the opposition were to get closer to the people it would expose the government. That is why the government is closing the doors to the opposition on the pretext of combating terrorism.

We know well—and the government has always been saying it—that there is no connection between terrorism and Islam. Nevertheless, the government opened wide the official media's doors to the enemies of Islam so they can attack al-Azhar, the al-Azhar scholars, and the Egyptian Church, although the government says that terrorism has nothing to do with religion. It is the duty of the government to explain what true Islam is. The enemies of Islam have stepped up their attacks on the scholars of Islam and the church. They even falsely attributed statements to them. The enemies of Islam are opposed to true fatwas; they claim that the al-Azhar was behind the attack on the great writer Najib Mahfuz. This is all false, because al-Azhar said nothing against Mahfuz. It only banned his novel in 1960, 34 years ago. Investigation proved that the attackers had never read

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his novel. They received instructions, which they carried out without even thinking for a moment.

The greatest mistake of the terrorist groups is that they gave a chance to the enemies of Islam to attack Islam. Attacking Islam has become an way to rise to fame and find yourself a seat in the government media.

Morocco

King Hassan Interviewed on Democracy, Violence

LD0311141394 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT
3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 03 (MAP)—Islam does not ban any modern way of life. It rather recommends a certain reserve and a sense of the family and values, King Hassan II said in an interview with US 'CNN International'.

To be a Moslem is not anti-democratic. It is an image that we make and we should not judge Islam on the basis of the behavior of some moslems, the sovereign said.

'It will not upset me to be a Moslem in a democracy other than that of Morocco'. 'Democracy is a way of life. And everyone is free to chose his own way of life', King Hassan II said.

Democracy cannot be imposed. All political leaders and militants of the independence era of the United States lived in France, in England, they were colonized by England, but they did not choose any of the two democracies. They rather made their own democracy, he added. The USA has now the record of constitutional longevity while France changed its constitution 19 times, the sovereign said.

On the political reforms conducted by Morocco, King Hassan II said there is much to be done. No system is perfect. [Words indistinct] should think of changing and improving every [words indistinct]. 'I myself daily think of reforms because life changes and evolves', he said.

To a question on how to deal with terrorist acts like the one that claimed over 20 lives in Tel Aviv lately the sovereign said 'we should be realistic and expect similar acts and we should continue to go ahead with the peace process'.

Unfortunately, violence has become a fashion that knows no country, no borders, no race and no religion, he said, before noting that this violence is the product of political and social atmosphere.

Israel's Peres Dedicates Liaison Office in Rabat

LD0311160794 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT
3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 3 (MAP)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres dedicated Tuesday [1 November] Israel's liaison office in Rabat.

The opening of an Israeli liaison office in Morocco was decided last September. It will be headed by David Dadon who served as director of relations with Arab countries at the Foreign Ministry.

Morocco also decided to open two liaison offices, one in Tel Aviv headed by Talal Ghufrani and the second in Gaza to be chaired by Col. Major Mohamed Abdeslam Sinaceur.

At the dedication ceremony, the Israeli foreign minister said that in the Casablanca economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa (October 30-November 1), Israel has reached results that it has been seeking all its life: The end of the Arab economic boycott. He pointed out that the Casablanca summit is a turning point for all peoples of the Mediterranean and the Middle East and the declaration adopted is the best ever reached in Arab-Israel relations.

In another statement to MAP, Peres said the summit was a historic event and a success thanks to H.M. King Hassan II and to the Moroccan people. We have changed the policy and the future of the Middle East in two days, he added.

On his part, David Dadon who was appointed head of the liaison office told MAP the opening of this representation is another step in the peace process, the Israeli people is grateful to King Hassan II for his wise and pertinent policy. He added that the Mediterranean region needs that all countries join efforts to set up an important market.

Israel and Morocco can set joint ventures and export to Europe and the USA, and this can also be applied with Jordan. ans and Palestinians.

The opening ceremony was attended by Israeli finance minister as well as some members of the Jewish community in Morocco.

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Islamic Revival, Iran, Iraq

BR0311141394 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
3 Nov 94 p 20

[Interview with Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi by Fabio Scuto; place and date not given: "Islam's Strategist: 'We Are the Future'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum—[passage omitted] [Scuto] You enjoy great influence in the Maghreb and the Arab world. Europe is now afraid of the Arab and Islamic revival.

[Al-Turabi] The Western and Islamic civilizations have influenced each other. We must now emphasize these positive phenomena, and not the clash between these cultures. It is no coincidence that this Islamic revival is led by people educated in the West. The development of these relations between the West and Islam is the only

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solution: This is why I am making a personal effort for the sake of a dialogue between southern Europe and the Middle East.

[Scuto] But Europe's perception of this "revival" is connected to the internal conflicts affecting the Arab countries and the Maghreb. I am thinking about the Algerian crisis, with which you are well acquainted, the constant killing of foreigners, or Egypt, where tourists are shot at...

[Al-Turabi] These countries are going through an internal revolution, and the Islamic revival is suffering fierce repression and is forced to resist, to use force against force. Of course, these movements' response often goes too far, but Europe still presents itself as the best ally of the old regimes. Personally, I reject this violence which hits innocent people, but your country and Europe must not confine yourselves to spontaneous assessments: You must form a strategic analysis of these phenomena.

[Scuto] With regard to the Algerian crisis, what is your opinion of the stance adopted by Italy, which distanced itself from France with its open invitation to the Islamic movement to engage in dialogue?

[Al-Turabi] At present I am trying to promote a dialogue on a different basis between the Islamic movement and the Algerian Government that will involve Italy, too. I have a great deal of respect for the change of course made by your country. Ever since 1992 (the year of the military coup in Algeria—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note) I have been trying to persuade the French to change their stance, telling them: "You cannot stop history." If the Algerian powder keg explodes, the consequences will be paid for by the whole of southern Europe. Obviously the military option is a desperate one, which is why we have urged Algeria's FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] to take up the offer of a dialogue with the regime.

[Scuto] Do you mean that you are the "mediator" between the Algerian extremists and the government?

[Al-Turabi] It is a dialogue that started under our sponsorship, though, partly to avoid embarrassment, I declined to perform a leading role and have remained behind the scenes.

[Scuto] Is there likely to be an Islamic revolution on the shores of the Mediterranean?

[Al-Turabi] The post-colonial regimes have been disastrous. The birth of the Islamic movements is a tendency of rebellion which is nurtured by sharp and violent slogans, but they are unable to translate this rebellion into programs and strategies. We must bring development to these countries—not a holy war.

[Scuto] You talk about mediation, but several Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, accuse you of interference in their internal affairs.

[Al-Turabi] That is not true. The fact is that for the Saudis Sudan represents a different kind of Islam, more modern and more open, which is why they fear us.

[Scuto] Why does the United States accuse you of terrorism, if the Islam that you propose is open and modern?

[Al-Turabi] I know the American people well: They know nothing about Islam in general or about Sudan. They level charges at my country, but the number of political prisoners in Sudan is 1 percent of those held in Saudi Arabia, Algeria, or Egypt. They accuse us of terrorism, but they do not have a single piece of evidence to show. The United States wanted to trap us through the business of Carlos, the terrorist, but that was a bomb that exploded in their own face.

[Scuto] But the United States says that you were behind the attack on the World Trade Center.

[Al-Turabi] Those are lies, which they are able to sustain thanks to their military strength and their strength in the media. They put words in my mouth that I never said. They accuse us of harboring Iranian pasdaran and many other things: I have never seen even an Iranian trader here; we have neither trade nor cultural exchanges; only their diplomats are here.

[Scuto] So what is the status of your relations with Iran?

[Al-Turabi] There was an Islamic revolution in Iran; here in our country merely an Islamic evolution. Only those who look at these things from far away believe that they can see points in common, which in fact do not exist. We are different. Our evolution is not oriented externally, and above all it is peaceful.

[Scuto] What do you think about the UN embargo against Saddam's Iraq?

[Al-Turabi] We condemned the invasion of Kuwait and urged an Arab solution to that conflict. Then we realized that the Western intervention was not only intended to liberate Kuwait, but that its purpose was also to halt Iraq's technological development. A weak and divided Iraq suits many people; I hope that that country will soon take another path.

[Scuto] You know 'Arafat well. What do you think of the agreement signed with Israel?

[Al-Turabi] 'Arafat had to drink a very bitter cup. The United Nations envisages the existence in those lands of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, but this has not happened. 'Arafat was supposed to be a chief of state, but now he is merely the mayor of a ruined city.

[Scuto] Everyone comes here to your country, Shaykh al-Turabi: peaceful Islamic movements, those that cite the holy war, terrorists. Is their presence not an embarrassment to those engaged in a dialogue with the Vatican?

[Al-Turabi] There is no embarrassment. It is the Vatican that wants to unite all religions against this modern world without ethics or values, and we are in complete agreement on this.

[Scuto] What did Sudan secure from France in exchange for Carlos, "the jackal"?

[Al-Turabi] The price was the blow dealt to the Americans, who wanted to arrest Carlos. The French dared to defy the Americans, and that itself was a good price.

Official on Relations With Uganda, Saudi Arabia

EA0211213094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, has confirmed that Ugandan-Sudanese relations are old, firm, and historical and that the leadership of both countries will be able to overcome any problem obstructing relations between the two countries in this period. He said despite foreign interference, Sudan is eager to overcome the obstacles. He expressed his hope, at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum yesterday, that Uganda will play a positive role in assisting and supporting the Sudanese peace negotiations for the urgent achievement of peace despite the unforeseen differences that have occurred between the two countries.

Meanwhile, His Excellency described Saudi-Sudanese relations to journalists as historical relations. He confirmed Sudan's eagerness to promote these relations in various fields. He said recalling diplomats is a routine measure that takes place with the aim of eliminating existing obstacles and promoting relations and that it is an attempt to heal the Arab rift.

Egypt Asked To Extradite Airline Hijacker

AB2710124894 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (AFP)—Sudan has called on Egyptian authorities to extradite a Sudanese national who hijacked an airliner to neighbouring Egypt last April, the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH reported Wednesday [26 October]. Sudanese Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddo said Egypt should comply with a criminal extradition agreement in existence between the two countries and hand over Adel Mahjoub to stand trial in Sudan.

Commenting on a report from Cairo that Hussein [name as received] is presently being tried in Egypt, Shiddo admitted that the Egyptian authorities were acting in accordance with international laws but said that was not enough. Mahjoub, 26, was brought before the high state security court in Cairo on October 18 and charged with carrying out the armed hijacking of a Sudan Airways plane on April 6, Egyptian judicial sources said. He is accused of threatening the pilots and forcing them to

take the plane, which had been on an internal flight from Khartoum to Dongola in northern Sudan, to Luxor in Egypt.

UNICEF Denies Charges in Child Kidnappings

AB2510212494 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudanese Government has accused two UN agencies of turning a blind eye to the alleged kidnapping of thousands of children by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. Khartoum claims that they have been forced into battle after being conscripted in refugee camps near the southern Sudanese border. The two agencies in the firing line are UNHCR and UNICEF, which is the lead agency in the UN's Operation Life Line Sudan [OLLS]. On the line to Nairobi, Josephine Hazely asked UNICEF's chief of operations, Philip O'Brien, how he pleaded to the Sudanese Government's charges.

[Begin recording] [O'Brien] I think not guilty. We (?certainly) are aware that a number of children went back to Sudan, who had been displaced through Ethiopia and ended up in (Kacopa), a refugee camp in north of Kenya. I don't believe, and I think UNHCR would agree, these children were certainly not kidnapped in any strict sense of the word kidnapped. There is always pressure; there is always incentives in some ways for young children to return home, particularly children who have been separated from their families as many of these minors have for a long period of time.

[Hazely] Are you denying then that you have no experience of witnessing young Sudanese children fighting for one of the rebel groups?

[O'Brien] I think anybody who has been in south Sudan would say that there is certainly what could be considered by soldiers involved in the war on (?many) and all sides, either in militias or more formally in the Armies. [sentence as heard] I think that is certainly an issue, and I think we have got to use every means of diplomacy and advocacy with everybody concerned in the conflict to ensure that young children, young boys under the age of 15, who should be protected by the Convention on the Rights of the Child [CRC], are not exposed to the ravages of conflict and are not used as boy soldiers.

[Hazely] Now, how much protection does UNICEF—because you are the organ that is supposed to look after kids—how much protection does UNICEF give to children that are in camps, like in Kenya, Zaire, and Uganda, to prevent them being taken by these rebels to fight?

[O'Brien] Well, that is a question.... [pauses] You have to address that question to the UNHCR, because OLLS has no mandate to work in Kenya, Uganda, or Zaire. We work in southern Sudan and in Sudan, with the SPLA,

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we have done a number of things and doing more to promote within the SPLA, particularly, the idea that the CRC is very strict on the way children should be treated in war, not just in terms of not being used as boy soldiers or support for the army's [word indistinct] fighters, but that they should have the right to protection from the ravages of conflict and they have right to [words indistinct] can be given to them in a situation of civil war.

[Hazely] You say you have been putting pressure on the SPLA inside Sudan, for which you have a mandate to operate, but perhaps the Government of Sudan might say you are not doing enough, because they don't hear you raising the issue and making a fuss about it.

[O'Brien] I think we would say we are not doing enough. I think there is always more that can be done. There is certainly.... [pauses] We need to do a lot more education, reorientation, and training with people in leadership positions within the SPLA. [end recording]

Minister Clarifies Statement on Press, Ministry

EA2910154594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, has strongly denied that he called for the subordination of the press to his ministry or for newspapers to be placed under the supervision of the information minister. He said in an interview published in today's edition of the AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper, that what he had said was about the complete removal of the role of the information minister from what was going on in the press arena, whether through the press and publications council or any supervision that put the minister in his natural position of someone concerned with the media issue. [sentence as heard]

He affirmed that he had not said and would not say that the Information Ministry ought to act as a censor of newspapers again. All that he demanded was the reform of the press and publications council to give the ministry a part in the running of this council. He added it was not sensible for the information minister to be far from an effective media body and a possessor of authority [as heard] such as the press. He pointed out that newspapers in the era of the National Salvation Revolution were not censored and that he did not accept to be a censor of writers, adding that they were confident of the press's ability to express the issues and concerns of the homeland as clearly as we expressed them.

About what was being raised about the sports and social pages [in newspapers], the culture and information minister said he had noticed they were inclined to sensationalism and exaggeration. However, in spite of that, he was of the opinion that they could be reformed calmly and that there was no need for immediate suspension. He said that this could be achieved by submitting observations about their performance, notifying the newspaper of them and specifying them to it, and then giving it a chance to reform. It's chief editor would be summoned if he did not abide by them. After that, it would be possible to resort to closure if the newspaper insisted on continuing these contraventions.

Committee for National Information Network Formed

EA001111594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Summary] Dr. Awadh Ahmad al-Jaz, the minister of the presidency for the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree establishing an advisory committee for the National Information Network under the chairmanship of Professor Izz al-Din Muhammad 'Uthman, the chancellor of Sudan's University of Science and Technology.

Bahrain**Minister Urges Plan To Boost Region's Economy***MM0311124494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
3 Nov 94 p 6*

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mu'ayyad Calls for 'Christopher Plan' To Boost Development in the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad has urged the Arab states to follow Europe's example in renouncing their disputes and accepting the existing borders among them. He said that the lesson learned from the Gulf war is that neighbors need to acknowledge that internationally recognized borders cannot be altered by force. He said that ending this kind of dispute would enable states to focus on development.

The minister put this in the context of the Casablanca economic summit, saying that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke there about the investments required in new economic spheres like tourism. He stressed the need for a "Christopher Plan" similar to the U.S. "Marshall Plan" which boosted Europe's economy after World War II.

Minister al-Mu'ayyad's lecture was entitled "The Arabs Under the New World Order." He delivered the lecture at a banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel in London on Tuesday evening. Two hundred people were present, among them a number of Arab ambassadors and Arab and foreign dignitaries.

The Bahraini information minister compared the present Arab situation with Europe's in the fifties and sixties when it took its first steps toward economic union. He called for enacting the economic and trade agreements concluded through the Arab League to form blocs that have common economic interests. Especially as the European Union prefers to deal with blocs, not separate states.

After an initial statement the minister fielded questions. He denied that Bahrain does not want to refer the dispute with Qatar to the International Court of Justice. He said that the court imposed the condition that all points concerning the dispute be submitted before it can act as an arbiter. He added: "We announced two weeks ago that one of the two parties is objecting to submitting some points, including those concerning the al-Zubarah area."

Commenting, Qatari Ambassador 'Ali Jidah said: "It seems that the new world order is established on the basis of Bahrain's retaining the Hawar area." He pointed out that "the best civilized method" of resolving disputes is "bilateral negotiation, arbitration, or referring to court."

'Abdallah Bisharah, chairman of the board of the Gulf Center for Strategic Studies and former secretary general

of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said: "We, in our region, believe that oppression is on its way to defeat. We believe that the region is approaching a dawn of tolerance and mutual respect."

The banquet was organized by 'Abdallah Bisharah and the center's director Dr. 'Umar al-Hasan.

Kuwait**Interior Minister Stresses Country's Stability***NC0411094094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT
4 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 4 Nov (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has stated that security in the country is now stable and under full control. He said the government will allow no one and no group to undermine this stability after Kuwait's gains following the recent crisis.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent, he said the recent crisis proved again that the Kuwaitis are united despite some violations of the law and variance in views. In hard times, he added, everyone is committed to the defense of his country.

He noted that the rate of ordinary crimes decreased significantly during the crisis, thanks to the intense security measures. He affirmed the security forces' ability to maintain the domestic front and ensure safety and security for all the citizens of Kuwait.

He said most of what was called the fifth column, which did not exist in the past, has now been eliminated, which is testimony to the Kuwaiti security forces' success with the help of Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates. He noted that no subversion or terrorist attempts were recorded during the crisis.

The Kuwaiti interior minister addressed an explicit warning to the Iraqi regime not to try again to tamper with Kuwait's security. He asserted that the Kuwaitis are intent on preserving their country's security and peace, benefiting from lessons of the past no matter what the sacrifices are.

Qatar**Foreign Minister Discusses Ties With Iran***LD3010112694 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT
30 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jaber Al Thani, in a meeting Saturday [29 October] in Doha with the Iranian ambassador Mohammad Baqer Safa'i said his country attaches great importance to its ties with Iran. He also announced his country's readiness to take required measures to promote bilateral relations specially in economic and commercial fields. Referring

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to the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf region, Al Thani reiterated that the crisis is not to the benefit of the regional states. Therefore, he added, all countries should try to settle problems in such a way that creation of new crisis in the region is prevented. Bilateral cooperation as well as various regional developments were among other topics discussed in the meeting.

Saudi Arabia

Prince's Address to Islamic Council Highlighted

LD0311142694 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT
3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 3, SPA—Saudi Arabic language newspapers published in the kingdom gave prominence editorially to president the kingdom's concept about peace and its leading Islamic role. [sentence as received]

Jeddah-based 'UKAZ said the kingdom's Islamic attitudes and commitment to the Islamic creed in all its affairs are to thank for its unique stable and secure example in a turbulent world. The paper said Moslems everywhere always look to the kingdom whose sincere efforts to serve Islam and Moslems puts their true believing minds at ease.

Commenting on the same issue, Mecca-based AL-NADWAH pointed to the statements of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at the first meeting of the Supreme Islamic Affairs Council in which he pointed to Saudi assistance to sisterly states which is motivated by the kingdom's Islamic and humanitarian duty and could not be further from political or other goals. The paper said these statements stress the Saudi position on rejecting interference in other countries' affairs.

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH pointed out that peace is the [words indistinct] that peace is the stability that fills the gap between social strata and cuts off users of the cruelty of harsh living conditions in many countries. It said real peace requires social development in the first place, which is the conviction behind Saudi plans and policies.

Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the kingdom will always remain at the core of the Arab and Islamic worlds and the Islamic minaret that illuminates all that is around it with goodness, peace, security and stability.

Al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM said Saddam's irrational act against Kuwait was in fact a work of the devil, and it was natural for the kingdom to defend the emirate and itself with the help of brothers and friends who agree that aggression in itself is a flagrant violation of the principles of international legitimacy.

Super Light Crude Exports To Begin

LD0311123094 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT
3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 3, SPA—Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir told SPA Wednesday [2 November] that the kingdom will start selling light crude oil from the central region oil fields as of mid November. He said the first shipment, 900,000 barrels sold to a Japanese company, will be shipped from Yanbu' port. He added that the super light crude is the best brand produced by Saudi Aramco at the present time and stressed that it exceeds most types of crude oil in quality with a 50.4 density and no more than 0.43 percent sulphur and metal gangue. He said drilling al-Hawtah area started in 1987, and al-Hawtah 1 field was discovered in 1989, and other fields were discovered in 1990.

Clinton Administration, Mideast Tour Criticized*JN0311160694 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
29 Oct 94 pp 1, 3*

["Viewpoint" by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Mr. Clinton: We Have the Evidence; Hear Us Out"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several American journalists have recently asked me the following question: Why do you use strong language in your media when addressing the U.S. Administration, even though you are a small, besieged nation while the United States is a powerful country feared by major powers and nations? I answered him: Do you listen carefully to the language of your president, his secretaries of state and defense, and his aged, very polite representative to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, when they address Iraq? If you have, then you must have noticed that the most salient features of their language are impudence, impoliteness, and contempt for international diplomatic etiquette. Those whom I have mentioned refer to my president without any official titles. At other times, they use the most impudent adjectives that prejudice Iraq's sovereignty. Therefore, and as a principle of reciprocity, we use a frank language that calls a spade a spade, without using any impudent or impolite language and with all due respect to your president and officials.

I also would like you to note—and I am still speaking to those who have asked me the above question—that the U.S. Administration is waging an all-out war—military, economic, and psychological—against the people of Iraq. The war has claimed the lives of more than 1 million Iraqis, and it is still continuing. How can you, therefore, expect a people who are experiencing genocide to speak to you in the same way as those who lead a comfortable life under normal circumstances. In fact, the strong language is a natural reaction to major criminal action. Do you even want to deprive us of our right to strong rhetoric in exposing your crimes?

Mr. President Bill Clinton: I am addressing you in order to explain to you why you are going to hear words that you may find strange, having heard words by some other Arabs who speak in the language of the "obedient student" who is skilled in the art of giving up his tongue, stand, and history just because he is very eager to remain in power.

First of all, I apologize in advance for any disturbance I may cause to you. You should know, however, that every single word I will utter expresses a profound conviction held by the people of all the Arab countries you have visited, as part of the U.S. election carnival, which you have now moved abroad. My words express, therefore, absolute truths which we will impose on you or on the person who will soon succeed you, in the name of freedom, adherence to national dignity, the honor of the Arab nation, and the purity of great Islam.

I am addressing you as an Arab citizen, without any official capacity, to tell you what my fellow citizens in

Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, occupied Palestine, and elsewhere think. I have heard you say things that are close to fiction. I would not speak lies; God forbid that the U.S. President should lie, having promised that he would make human rights the first item on his foreign policy agenda. We have seen you carry the sword of human rights to behead thousands of people daily on all continents.

Stay calm, Mr. President, and do not fly into a temper lest "sweet Paula" should notice this. Mark my words because democracy—a basic human right—tells us that we must listen to all views. You have used the language of genocide, murder, and threats when you addressed the majority of Arabs and Muslims on the soil of Egypt and Jordan. Apparently, you have not carefully read the intelligence reports about the reaction of the Arab street to your visits and speeches. You have indeed seen this reaction in the unprecedented security measures, even in occupied Palestine, to the extent that members of the Zionist Knesset were not allowed to turn around or move about while you were there. Therefore, I must tell you the truth which you sought to bury, along with your youthful past, by just remembering your past as Arkansas governor.

How shall I begin my conversation with you, president of the strongest country in the world? You may smile and say in your confused mind: This man knows I like to be described as the president of the strongest country in the world. Imagine whatever you wish, Mr. President. What I will say is just part and not the whole truth, because the whole truth will take days if I make you lie on the couch, remove the results of the brainwashing process to which you were exposed, and restore your conscience and the purity of your mind, even though I believe that broken glass cannot be repaired. The couch is used by psychiatrists for their patients. Have you remembered it? I think so, because you know that every American family has a psychiatrist. This is one of the blessings of the American way of life, which you say you want to export to other parts of the world! Do you agree to have an Iraqi psychiatrist, who will not deceive you, as dozens of American psychiatrists around you are doing because they themselves are psychologically ill and because the sides that employ them want them to keep you obedient, like Ronald Reagan after his assassination attempt? The U.S. president who disobeys the American Mafia will face the fate of your forerunner, John Kennedy.

Let us begin with the story of beautiful Paula Jones, whom I have just mentioned. When you heard the name, you were upset and you turned to Hillary and smiled in her face without any apparent reason. Mr. President, you must know why we will begin with Paula. When you visited my Arab homeland, you talked like a preacher and like a man who is responsible for the world. That attitude raised the following idea: He who cannot be trusted in his treatment of a young woman in his country, although he is a powerful ruler, and he who tries to force women to sleep with him cannot be the ruler of the world or an integral reformist.

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We have learned from our Arab Islamic history and from the wisdom of the peoples of the East, particularly China and India. I say we have learned things that you do not know in the Western civilization. One of these things is that he who assumes power should differentiate between his personal desires and his authority. The Arabs say that the ruler is like a father of the people and not a wolf that tears their flesh. History also says that if the ruler uses his authority to gratify his personal desires, then this will mean the beginning of his inevitable fall.

Mr. Clinton, you were accused several times in the United States, and each of these accusations is enough to strip you of your authority, if only the Mafia that governs the United States wants that. I would like to remind you of what the Mafia did to Gary Hart, a former U.S. presidential candidate, who was destroyed by the Mafia of the mass media organs for his relationship with a woman. Forgive me if I introduce Paula to the Arab citizen. You forced me to do that. He who spoke like a preacher and described the Arabs and Muslims as terrorists and killers and as representing the past—that false and hostile preacher who insulted the Arabs and their prophet, Muhammad, in their own homeland and who desecrated religion and Arabism with his mean views—should be exposed to the Arab citizens.

A few days ago, I read a report in a U.S. newspaper that you may have read too. The report says that Paula Jones filed a suit against you because you assaulted her sexually when you were Arkansas governor in 1991. Paula asserts that she faces many difficulties in addressing public opinion. The freedom of the press in your country has reached so a high level that THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST, the two biggest newspapers, have refused to publish her story, but published just a brief news item, although the story is very exciting, even in the viewpoint of the press.

Paula says she has evidence and she wants people to listen to her. It seems that her evidence is categorical. She says she has an envelope containing a description of marks on President Clinton's body. She says she saw them when he summoned her and tried to force her to have a certain kind of sex with him at the Excelsior Hotel in the town of Hope in Arkansas.

You saw her at the hotel while she was working as a secretary. One of the state's guards asked her to see you and she believed you would dictate a message to her. But she was stunned when you asked her to have sex with you. She resisted and ran away.

Paula Jones says she is telling the truth and that your denial is useless. She asks the court to open the envelope and read a description of the marks on your body. How could she see these marks if you did not take off all or some of your clothes before her?

What Paula has said would help us, Mr. President, understand a strange phenomenon—namely, you did not exploit the opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea while

you were near it in this warm weather. One of your old desires was to see and swim in the sea, because all seas in the world are alive except this miserable sea, which died because of pollution and the pain over what happened and what is happening. You came quickly to perform an exciting election show in which you would be seen swimming in the Dead Sea while Jews and Arabs clap for you or join you in the swimming.

Yes, you wanted to swim in this interesting Dead Sea. However, you did not swim despite people's insistence because Paula's threats were violent, effective, and logical. You were afraid that some people would see you naked while swimming, and if the court accepted Paula's proposal to examine your body, your Arab friends will realize that Paula was saying the truth.

Mr. President: Paula greets you warmly and she is still repeating with the voice of an oppressed woman: "I have the evidence and I want you to hear me out." Now that you are standing, for the first time in your life, in an area to the south of Iraq, where you can hear an Iraqi farmer singing while cultivating his land, we, in Iraq, also say to you: We have the evidence and we want you, Your Excellency the President, to hear us out.

I have seen all your speeches on the CNN, listened carefully to your statements, and have written down initial observations about them.

Before discussing what you said in Cairo and Amman, would you allow me, Mr. President, to express my deep admiration for the words which you have chosen in your speeches, their eloquence, their deep meanings, and their familiarity with history and religion, as well as their cognizance of the psychology of the Arabs and Muslims. You looked fantastic while delivering your speeches. What made you more fantastic are the attractive movements of your hands and face. You are an "artist" in synchronizing movements with words. One who sees you speaking will think that your hoarse voice is the voice of a good preacher, not that of "a sex maniac", as you were described by your mistress Jennifer Flowers in her interview with "the very decent family" sex magazine PENTHOUSE, or as you were described by the sweet and poor Paula.

The people of the East are so good that they enjoy good words accompanied by studied movements. This is what your advisers told you before leaving America: Be careful, Mr. President, the Arabs are a people who become drunk when they hear sweet words and promises. Therefore, let them drink the wine which makes them victorious while they are defeated and which turns their desert into paradise while plants and animals are, in fact, dying there.

Yes, I very much admired your speeches, but my only objection is "very, very simple." You did not write one single letter of the speeches you delivered in Cairo, Jordan, and other places and you knew nothing of their contents.

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In your speeches, you dealt with ideas which are larger than your brain and deeper than your very simple ideas, which do not exceed "satisfying" your daily needs. How did you suddenly become a theorist, religious reformer, peace advocate, and psychiatrist? The answer is simple: It is no secret that U.S. presidents and senior officials know nothing about the speeches they deliver because they are prepared by many specialized experts who draft what other sides decide should be said and underscored.

Then comes the role of the director, scenario writer, and cosmetician. You sit for days to learn by heart ideas and words. Then, the director and scenario writer come to teach you how to smile, when to bow, where to extend your hand, and when to raise or lower your voice. The U.S. president does not go to people before "arranging" his ideas, statements, movements, jokes, clothes, and make-up.

Therefore, allow me, Mr. President, to say to you that your wonderful speeches and movements are the characteristic of a skilled actor who is playing a role in which he was trained.

I can see that you have become furious, Mr. President, although you hear this in America many times a month. Therefore, I can say that your anger is the result of a racist motive. I, the Arab Muslim, have no right to say the truth, while the Americans and Europeans can say it to you and you smile at an expression of "your democracy!" There, you exchange smiles after you are criticized, even when you are slapped, because you care very much about votes. Here, however, there are no votes. Therefore, you become nervous when you are criticized and begin to take the cover off your face, and maybe your clothes, as you did with Paula.

When you arrived in Cairo and met with your friend, the genius, the intellectual, and the righteous Husni Mubarak, you naturally paid tribute to him. We could have considered this some form of diplomatic courtesy. However, very regrettably, Mr. U.S. President, you borrowed the language of some Arab leaders and began to talk about the "Egyptian example of peace" which must be emulated. In order not to do you injustice, I will repeat what you have said verbatim: "Egypt's courageous example set at Camp David has paved the way to the historic progress we celebrate on this day. This region and the entire world owe you and your people a deep debt of gratitude."

Do you know a person called Machiavelli? In the United States you are used to getting a briefing about everything, exactly like making instant food—easy, fast, and little food—such as Burger King, McDonalds, and others. Therefore, I would assume that your advisers have told you, very briefly, about Machiavelli. But the "Presidential briefing" in the United States is meant to make the President uneducated and not educate him. The only thing you know about Machiavelli is that he is a political author who set out a theory on how to run a state based on giving priority to practical considerations and not

values or principles. Such a theory serves the United States' pragmatic course because Machiavelli's theory is the best expression of the U.S. pragmatic philosophy.

Maybe, and we say maybe in order not to do you injustice, you do not know that Machiavelli teaches rulers a "golden principle" about how to influence the masses. He says: If you wish to introduce a nonexistent idea, then lie, lie, and lie again. In the first time, the majority will reject the lie, but you will find some people who will believe it. In the second, you will find more people who believe it, thus you create a base of believers and applauders. If you repeat the lie for the third or fourth time, then amid the applause of the hooligans, you yourself will believe the lie.

What you did in Cairo, Mr. President, was to fall victim to an old U.S. lie: that the two Camp David accords have established peace between Egypt and the Zionist entity. You backed this with another lie: that the Egyptian-Zionist example of peace must be emulated. Are you serious, Mr. President? Do you think the Egyptian people who heard you will view you seriously and with respect when you say that?

I know I am addressing a living robot, but let me remind you of some very simple facts which you can comprehend. The first fact, of which I wish to remind you, and which your intelligence services must have confirmed to you, is that 15 years after the signing of the two Camp David accords and the attempts to establish Egyptian-Zionist normalization, the overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people are against normalization. Did your aides not tell you that the Arab Artists Union, which has the biggest and most important branch in Egypt, denounced and rejected, through its Egyptian President Sa'd-al-Din Wabbah, the normalization attempts in a news conference he held in Cairo on 27 October 1994. Did they not tell you that in response to you and your speech in Cairo and what the Tel Aviv authorities have said—that the cultural and artistic relations between the Arabs and the Zionist entity will be normalized—Wabbah said: "This is a fantasy, because the Arab-Zionist conflict continues and the Arab people from the Ocean to the Gulf reject any cultural or artistic relations with the Zionist entity."

Sa'd-al-Din Wabbah is an Egyptian who is not against the Husni Mubarak regime. He, however, was expressing the position of all of Egypt. If you want to be precise in what you say, I urge you to ask your subordinate Husni Mubarak, who always answers your requests with "yes, Sir" or "right now, Sir", to give you the number of Egyptians who visited the Zionist entity in 15 years, or the number of Egyptian merchants who struck deals with the Zionist entity, and the number of Egyptians who attend the functions of the Zionist embassy in Cairo?

If the know-all Husni Mubarak provides you with the public and well-known facts, you will certainly discover that the Egyptian people, with their spontaneous nature and national will, are strongly against normalization

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with the Zionist entity. The borders were not opened, the walls did not come down, and there was no movement of goods or tourists. Those who exchange visits are the intelligence men and the officials and a small number of disreputable people.

Before that, why do you not ask your security advisers—who asked you to follow their instructions when you arrived in Cairo, who massed 1,500 U.S. security persons and thousands of Egyptian security men, and who advised you not to travel in an open car or walk in Cairo streets, and so forth—why not ask them, Mr. President: Why do we need all these measures when Egypt's relations with Israel are an example of the peace that should be emulated?

Certainly, you will find the answer in a report which Central Intelligence Agency Chief Woolsey gave to you before you left Washington. The report says there is terrorism in Egypt and it is necessary to be careful. Let us accept this, Mr. President, and use it as the basis for a dialogue between us. Let us first pause a little at that point.

What is happening in Egypt is not terrorism, but a general popular uprising that started several years ago in the countryside and arrived last year in Cairo. Terrorism is the act of an individual or a limited elitist group. However, the popular armed struggle, which has continued for years within the framework of declared objectives, is called "popular uprising," or "armed struggle," or "national revolution."

In Egypt, and despite the difference in view amongst those who raise arms against the Egyptian regime, which forced them to do so by suppressing and depriving them of the right to free expression, there is a national consensus on two points: First, that normalization with the Zionist entity is national treason and religious blasphemy.

Second, the tragedy of Egypt is caused by the Zionist entity and America, which are turning graveyards in Egypt into cities inhabited by thousands of families! Have you heard, Mr. President, of a country other than Egypt where graveyards are used as free-of-charge hotels where thousands of families reside permanently?

If the Egyptian people, after over 15 years of normalization, are still strongly rejecting normalization and consider it the cause of Egypt's agonies, then how did you blunder and deem Egypt as the example that should be followed? Do you mean to say that normalization with the Zionist entity means and must mean disastrous consequences for every country that follow Egypt's example of normalization? We in Iraq, in light of our current bitter experience with you, Mr. President, affirm that through normalization with the Zionist entity, you want Arab entities to be destroyed from within and through the systematic spoiling and destruction of Arab economies and societies.

Mr. President, since you have talked in a Machiavellian way about the Arab people's satisfaction with normalization, allow me to remind you of a fact noted by your current unofficial envoy and former Democratic President Jimmy Carter during the signing ceremony of the Camp David treaties by Anwar al-Sadat and Menachem Begin. He said that the signing of the two treaties was a success for the establishment of peace between governments. He added that although that was a basic and important step, the establishment of peace between peoples was more important. Without peace between peoples, the peace of governments is worthless.

That was what your democratic predecessor, Carter, said, and which was 100 percent true. This is because peace, in form and in content, is a process that should lead to stability and removal of all forms of violence, most important of which are compulsion, annexation, extortion, and the policy of force. History is rife with relevant examples. Peace is absolutely the contrary of pressure and extortion against either party to the peace process. When people converse freely and agreements are reached without compulsion and extortion and as a result of understanding between the two or more parties involved, then a durable, just peace can be reached and all problems will be uprooted. This is a lesson from both old and modern history.

On the contrary, when one of the two parties uses his own power or strong foreign support to impose facts and force them on other side, the only result will be what can be called the "peace by force," a fragile and temporary peace carrying elements of war and conflict. This is because one of the two sides will be convinced that it has signed an unfair deal that harms its national interests. Have you not heard of the Versailles agreement imposed on Germany by force? After it regained its power, Germany rejected the agreement. The outcome of the imposed Versailles agreement was the destructive World War II.

Therefore, history says that the peace by force is nothing but a time bomb awaiting an appropriate time to explode. Consequently, uglier wars may break out because of the accumulation of new factors of hatred and the emergence of new problems, such as the deliberate insult to the dignity and sovereignty of the state on which the agreements are imposed. The Egyptian-Zionist agreement is an example of unfair agreements imposed by force and extortion. Therefore, there has been no normalization despite all the government efforts and the U.S. support.

The Egyptian people, together with the entire Arab people, are absolutely convinced that normalization with the Zionist entity is nothing but an imposition of a humiliating state of capitulations in an attempt to force the Arabs to abandon their historical, national, and legal rights to Palestine on the pretext of being realists and accepting realities. Therefore, the "peace of governments" signed by the governments of Egypt and the

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Zionist entity over 15 years ago has not turned into a peace of peoples. There is no chance for that all, for the Zionist entity has colonized Palestine by force and relied on the policy of looting Arab wealth and territory and destroying the pillars of civilization in Arab countries.

Therefore, Mr. President, there is no peace now with the Zionist entity. Rather, there is a capitulation to the Zionist logic of force, which is supported by the U.S. war machine. This is absolutely clear even in your statements in Jordan in which you explicitly admitted that there is a strong pan-Arab and Islamic opposition to the policy of reconciliation with the Zionist entity. You said: "I tell them (pan-Arabists and Islamists) that you will not and must not succeed because you are the past and not the future."

The message will be continued tomorrow.

'Political Aims' of Clinton's Trip Viewed

JN0211085694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "An Exposed Plot"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of the waffling U.S. President to the region under the excuse of attending the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Zionist peace treaty entails a number of political aims. The foremost of these are giving assurances to the collaborators and friends of the United States about continued U.S. support for the rulers of the states he will visit, in order to prompt Syria to expedite the settlement with "Israel," to try to steal the limelight from Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's visit to Iraq, containing the effects of the Iraqi-Russian Baghdad statement, and to assure the agents—both big and small—that the United States is still powerful inside the UN Security Council despite the change in the attitude of the council's permanent member states in Iraq's favor.

Meanwhile, the U.S. President will ask his collaborators to remain within the American sphere, guarantee U.S. interests, and ignore the new facts that show the United States is no longer the sole power that can influence world events in its favor as the recent Security Council debate on Iraq has shown.

In addition, Clinton will try to show that Washington and its allies in the region are united, thereby ignoring the difficulties facing the U.S. presence in Kuwait, especially its high cost. He will try to give them a false impression about the success of his mission, emphasizing the need to increase the plotting against Iraq, and discussing—and this is a likely possibility—an air strike against Iran following the Palestinian "Tel Aviv" operation and the killing and wounding of scores of Zionists in that heroic operation.

Writer Advises Clinton To Visit 'Ethics Sanatorium'

JN0311205594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi: "The Iraq Blockade and the U.S. Schizophrenia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The core of our problem with the United States lies in the political duality and the biased interpretation of international resolutions.

During his current tour, Clinton the irresolute called for "moderation and peace" with his strategic Zionist ally. Meanwhile, he is exercising an ultra-extremist and terrorist policy and aggressive pressure against leader Saddam Husayn's Iraq, which is demanding its legitimate right to have the blockade lifted.

The master of the Black House has also advised "openness and flexibility" with the racist Zionists. Meanwhile, as he ignores the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, he turns a blind eye to Tel Aviv's noncommitment to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. At the same time, he rejects an objective, quiet dialogue with Baghdad, threatening to use brutal force, although Iraq has met its legal obligations in accordance with the unfair UN Security Council resolutions.

We advise the U.S. President to visit the nearest "ethics sanatorium" to treat this ethical schizophrenia and to provide him with a minimum level of harmony between his eye-catching slogans and the barbaric behavior of his administration, which has begun to roll down from the peak of the world order to the abyss. Peace and security are indivisible in this sensitive area of the world. They will never be secured as long as our people are being starved to death, and as long as an end is not brought to the Zionist occupation and the U.S. imperialist arrogant policy against the Arab nation's aspirations for unity, democracy, progress, and justice.

U.S. Said Forcing 'Americanization' on Region

JN2910120794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT
29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi paper says the flame which Iraq ignited has illuminated some dark corners and helped educate tens of millions of young Arabs.

In an editorial today, AL-QADISIYAH says: Without the Mother of Battles, the young Arab people would not have learned in less than a year what Arab wealth means, what role the oil-producing regimes play to sabotage the Arab nation, and what are the rights of the nation and who infringes on these rights.

The paper explains that the Americanization, sought by Zionism and the U.S. Administration, aims at imposing hegemony on the Arab states' political, economic, and cultural decisions so that the Arab regimes will remain unconcerned, tamed, subservient, and weak and yield to a new type of intellectual and cultural colonialism that erases its identity.

The paper concludes its article by saying: It will not be long before slanders and distortions start gradually, and indirectly, against the most sacred thing for the Muslims

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from which they take guidance—that is, the Holy Koran, which preserved the nation's cultural unity and spirit of jihad.

Minister: West Wants 'Puppet Regime' in Baghdad

MS0111143794 London THE GUARDIAN in English
1 Nov 94 p 15

[Report by Jonathan Rugman: "Iraq Takes Long View of Confrontation With West"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad—When Salah al-Mukhtar, editor of Iraq's oldest government newspaper, tries to account for his country's problems, he quotes what he says is an Indian saying: "If two fishes are quarreling in the ocean, blame it on the British."

"British colonialism created the problem of Kuwait—Britain has protected the emir since the 1930s," the editor of al-Jumhuriyah says as he explains Iraq's invasion of its neighbour four years ago.

Whether they actually believe it or not, Mr al-Mukhtar and the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of Iraq are proponents of an anti-colonialist conspiracy theory which forms the core of the current regime's propaganda.

The theory has it that the invasion of Kuwait was in self-defence; and that sanctions against Iraq, the air exclusion zones in the Kurdish north and Shiite south and the current build-up of allied troops in the Gulf are part of a plot to take control of Iraq's oilfields and provoke civil war.

"The policy is to destroy us," Mr al-Mukhtar says. "Every Ba'thist or anti-Ba'thist person believes it. All Iraqis will stand behind the president because it is a case of avoiding the option of Yugoslavia."

Iraq's suspicions of US and British motives are grounded in colonial history. When independence was conferred on Iraq in 1930, the country was obliged to have "full and frank consultations with Great Britain in all matters of foreign policy".

The Ba'th party has been ideologically sustained by the threat of neo-colonialism and foreign interference ever since it took over power in 1968. Mr al-Mukhtar was imprisoned in the late 1950s for membership of the Ba'ath and still speaks a language of Arab nationalism which has changed little since the days of 'Abd-al-Nasir.

President Saddam Husayn's supporters do have cause to believe a plot is under way. The British Foreign Office Minister, Douglas Hogg, is the latest Western politician to have called openly for the ousting of President Saddam, joining a list which began in earnest when President Bush encouraged Iraqis to rise up in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

It has also been widely argued that Anglo-American interest in Iraq is indeed based on oil, and that it is in the

interests of the Gulf states to keep Iraq's oil off the market so that the price remains high.

Yet so much of Iraqi politics appears to exist in a time warp. While others in the Arab world move towards peace with Israel and the United States, Baghdad maintains the old rhetoric of the "Arab nation" fighting imperialism and destroying the Jewish state.

"Our enemies want a puppet regime in Baghdad," says Yusuf Hammadi, Iraq's information minister. "They have been driven out of the country and now they want to come back."

Mr Hammadi is, however, confident that any plan to divide Iraq will fail. He points to fighting this summer between rival factions in the Kurdish "safe haven" of northern Iraq as proof that the Kurds are incapable of independence, and will eventually return to Baghdad's fold.

Mr Hammadi's party colleague, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi is similarly confident that a Shiite rebellion will not recur. "Those who acted did not have the support of the people," Mr al-Hashimi says of the southern uprising at the end of the Gulf war. "Fourteen out of our 18 governorates went beyond our control and yet we came back—no Iraqi wants Baghdad to become like Sarajevo."

While the media uses the spectres of invasion and disintegration to boost support for President Saddam, officials are quietly confident that the allies have no intention of intervening to remove their leader.

"They can't find anyone else to back because there is no one else to back," says a chuckling Mr al-Hashimi. "The Ba'th is stable, it can rebuild relations with the West," claims another party supporter.

The Iraqi National Congress [INC], an umbrella opposition group based in Kurdish-administered northern Iraq, is apparently not regarded as a serious threat by Baghdad. The INC's president, Ahmad Jalabi, is viewed with the same suspicion as he is by Western governments, who doubt that anyone could prevent civil war if President Saddam is toppled.

Mr Jalabi's grandfather was a member of the first Iraqi National Assembly and his father and brother were ministers. Yet Ba'thists claim that these credentials dating from colonial times do not amount to modern political credibility.

A senior European diplomat in the Iraqi capital argues that when sanctions are lifted, it would be better for foreign investors if President Saddam were still in control as a guarantee of stability.

"There will always be enough dates in Iraq to keep the establishment fed for a long time," the diplomat says, refuting the Iraqi National Congress's claim that the impoverishment of the middle class is bringing about a movement for change.

Also there are doubts whether the country is ready for the INC's democracy. As Mr Hammadi puts it: "In this region, real democracy and oil do not mix."

President Saddam's Sunni power base may, as the INC believes, be crumbling. But should there be more allied bombing raids against Baghdad and the Iraqi leader survive, his position as leader of a suffering, besieged people could quite possibly be enhanced. In the words of a European diplomat: "In the Middle East, you are strong until you are dead."

Arab 'Openness' To Zionist 'Monopolies' Assailed

JN041111294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0906 GMT
4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the interests of the Arab economy are not promoted by openness toward Zionist and racist monopolies, but rather by building a pan-Arab economic bloc, in which the interests of all Arab states without exception are accorded equal treatment.

In an article entitled "The Embargo Is Not A Purely Iraqi Affair," published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the Arab states, saying: The rectification of your economic state of affairs cannot be achieved by harboring empty dreams produced by the U.S. Administration and the Zionist octopus. Rather, it must be accomplished by rehabilitating the unity of the Arab economy, to which Iraq is a key party.

The paper goes on to say: It has become clear that it is impossible to skirt the Iraqi economy in any balanced regional or pan-Arab development endeavor. Likewise, those who have lost their financial reserves and economic assets in order to gratify their evil instincts and promote the embargo clamped on Iraq must now contemplate the fate they have met. They are facing declining financial liquidity, loans obtained from the World Bank, not to mention the drastic changes introduced into their development endeavors to address their deficits and the state of affairs of their coffers, which have been emptied without achieving any positive results in return.

The paper says: Arab losses due to the embargo are increasing constantly. Arab trade now constitutes only 1 percent of world trade. In the past it amounted to 7 percent. Recession is now plaguing ports, means of transport, banks, and service facilities in the Arab world. As for the number of unemployed workers in the Arab homeland, it has increased by 5 million people, according to the figures provided by the Arab Labor Organization. These 5 million jobless Arabs used to do business with Iraq. There is also the fate of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Arab Common Market, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Maritime Corporation, and Arab oil industries in general to consider.

The paper notes that Arab and foreign experts have given further realistic figures regarding the losses to the economies of countries adjacent to Iraq, as well as other countries in Asia, Africa, and South America that have suffered due to the severance of their trade ties with Iraq.

Turkish documents provide indisputable confessions regarding these losses. As for the Arab economy, it suffers from endless problems and impediments to development.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that the interests of the Arab economy are not promoted by openness to racist and Zionist monopolies, which will only breach Arab markets, but rather by building a pan-Arab economic bloc, in which the interests of all Arab states without exception are accorded equal treatment.

Kuwait Urged To Give Up Arms, Resort to Talks

JN0211122394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
27 Oct 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "Continuous Waste"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For London to sell missiles to Kuwait valued at \$80 million on the sideline of the recently fabricated crisis in order to dispose of its useless merchandise is not something new. This deal has been preceded by several other similar deals at fantastic prices. Britain, and before that the United States, has become accustomed to exploiting the Kuwaiti rulers' fears to the maximum by this policy of fraud and extortion.

In fact, increasing tension and causing panic through fabricated crises in the region has become a favorite game for Washington and its British satellite in order to exhaust the resources of the Kuwaiti rulers, especially since they were very punctual in paying all the bills of the aggression against Iraq and they continue to finance the deployment of mercenary forces—from their boots to their bullets—in addition to other expenses.

But pursuing the process of concluding armament deals and contracts so viciously and at such exorbitant prices, to the extent of imposing a tax on citizens by deducting 10 percent from the wages of civil servants and private sector employees, at a time when the Kuwaiti rulers have concluded what is termed joint defense pacts with the United States and its allies to face what they claim Iraqi threats, raises many questions. The foremost of these is why are these people buying all these weapons in such fantastic quantities and great varieties when they can hire fully-equipped mercenaries to fight on their behalf?

Indeed, why this great waste of wealth and revenues as long as they are paying "protection" money? If we were to calculate the number of deals the Kuwaiti rulers have concluded in billions of dollars, we would discover that they have indeed exhausted their reserve assets. The imposition of a tax by the deduction of wages is only one

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indication that this fraudulent policy will continue. Furthermore, if we were to assess the useless merchandise that Washington and London have disposed of during the past four years we will find the issue is greater than Kuwait's absorption and storage capability, let alone its ability to handle such weapons. This shows the question is no longer one of a desire to possess the weapons, but one of enforcement, dictatorship, and exploitation of the crisis in this milking process. No doubt, the continuation of this stupid policy will be harmful to Kuwait more than anyone else, and this is something which no one has failed to notice.

Security, safety, stability, and peaceful coexistence in the region will not be achieved by foreign forces, warships, and aircraft carriers, or by an armament race, but by sowing the seeds of mutual confidence and resolving outstanding problems through dialogue and persuasion, especially since Iraq is not an emirate or a tiny state in the region, but a state known for its weight, status, history, and leadership; a state that can play a major role in creating a balance in the region. Therefore, the policy of giving the cold shoulder and depending on foreign strength will not resolve the problem, but rather complicate it further. Will the Kuwaiti rulers realize what course they are following and for how long?

Kurdistan Radio on Normalization Efforts in Irbil

NC0311170694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], this morning chaired a meeting of the committee in charge of normalizing the situation in the Irbil governorate. Present at the meeting were the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and a number of the committee members.

The conferees discussed the current situation in the governorate and the steps necessary to normalize the conditions there. The conferees decided the following during the meeting:

1. The committee will send a team made up of the official in charge of the third branch of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], the official in charge of the KDP's second branch, the Irbil Governorate, and military officials to areas where normalization will be applied.
2. The conferees decided to implement all the pending resolutions that were adopted during the committee's previous meetings.
3. The PUK and KDP military officials will implement these resolutions.

Kurdish Security Arrests Baghdad 'Mercenary'

NC0311180494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning a detachment of the Irbil Governorate security service arrested Salah Darwish, a mercenary of the 'Aflaqite regime in Baghdad. The security men seized 10 kg of the highly explosive TNT with the criminal. Darwish was instructed by the Baghdad regime to detonate the TNT explosives in the Irbil Governorate. Bakr Mustafa, head of the security service in Irbil, has told the newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY that criminal Salah Darwish, who hails from Karkuk, was instructed by the Baghdad regime's intelligence service to detonate the TNT in the Irbil Governorate. The criminal was well trained on detonating the explosives in cooperation with other mercenaries residing in certain areas in the Kurdistan region. Mustafa said that criminal Darwish has confessed to his crimes and revealed the names of his collaborators, who were arrested.

Paper Reports on Oil Transport Company Operations

JN0211104394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 4

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahid Harjan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Company for the Transport of Oil Products has transported more than 492,000 tonnes of different oil products inside and outside the country during the last six months of this year.

Making this announcement, company Manager Muthanna 'Abd-al-Hamid has said that the quantities of oil and by-products transported were distributed as follows: 374,000 tonnes were transported inside the country for the State Enterprise for the Distribution of Oil Products, the State Enterprise for Iraqi Cement, and al-Ramadi Glass Factory; and 118,000 tonnes of different oil products were transported outside the country.

The manager added that through its fleet of 40 special tankers, in addition to 1,500 other tankers belonging to the private sector, the company made a profit of \$412,000 as of 30 September 1994, while its revenues in local currency were approximately 10 million Iraqi dinars as of 31 August 1994.

The manager said the company has ambitious plans to double its revenues by concluding direct contracts with companies and expanding its fleet to 60 tankers.

Peres Not To Make Statement on al-'Abid Assassination*TA0311155794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today said he has no intention to react to reports claiming that Israel is responsible for the assassination of the Islamic Jihad activist in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Peres told our political correspondent that in his opinion Israel should not make any statements on this issue, because such statements are not helpful.

al-'Abid Background, Plans for New Attack Detailed*TA0411113794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 pp A1, A2*

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad organization in the Gaza Strip planned to carry out a car bomb attack in Israel. The planning for this attack was at an advanced stage. Hani 'Abid, the senior Islamic Jihad activist who was killed when his booby-trapped car exploded in Khan Yunus, served as the head of this organization's military arm and was also one of the planners of this attack.

The squad that planned to carry out the attack belongs to Islamic Jihad's military arm. The members of this squad had stolen a car from Israel and moved it to the Gaza Strip in order to carry out the attack. 'Abid, a chemist by profession, was supposed to install the explosive device in the car and organize the attack.

Hani 'Abid, head of Islamic Jihad's military arm, masterminded a series of attacks in which his men were involved, among them the murder of two reserve soldiers, Moshe Buqra and Erez Ben-Barukh, at the Erez checkpoint. Apparently he also participated in the murders. [passage omitted]

Yesterday Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] repeated their threats to carry out an attack in retaliation for 'Abid's assassination, which they attribute to Israel.

The security forces and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are preparing to thwart possible attacks. Warnings have been received about a possible attack in Israel or at the Cave of the Patriarchs entrance when it opens for prayer next Monday [7 November]. A military source yesterday said that on the cave's opening day Hebron will be put under closure and will be surrounded by a very large contingent of Border Police and IDF.

The security forces and the IDF have also increased their alertness in the various sectors of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, especially the Qatif Bloc roads. Thorough checks are being conducted at the roadblocks for fear of suicide attacks. [passage omitted]

Rabin Approves Issuance of 5,000 More Work Permits*TA0311180694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has approved the issuance of another 5,000 permits to laborers from Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for work in Israel. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the permits will be issued to 3,000 industry workers and 2,000 construction workers, married men over the age of 30 who worked in Israel prior to the closure.

The Civil Administration has not yet decided how to distribute the new permits. The number of workers permitted to enter Israel will henceforth stand at 10,000 construction workers and 3,000 industry workers. The permits will be distributed by the middle of next week.

Majority Considers Decision To Ease Closure 'Wrong'*TA0411134394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 p 5*

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: Do you think the government's decision to ease the closure on Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip was right or wrong?

Answer: right, 35 percent; wrong, 60 percent; no reply, 5 percent.

The poll was conducted on 3 November on 533 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Embassies Instructed To Protest Lifting Iraqi Embargo*TA0411062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry has instructed Israeli embassies abroad to protest the lifting of the embargo on Iraq and cancellation of UN international observers. Qol Yisra'el's political correspondent says this would be the first time Israeli embassies have been instructed to demonstrate Israel's views so clearly. He adds that the directive came after sources in Jerusalem sensed that several countries would consider lifting—for a trial period—the sanctions that were imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War.

Turkey's Ciller Arrives for 3-Day Official Visit**Schedule Detailed***TA0311085294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has arrived in Israel on an official 3-day visit. It is

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the first time a Turkish prime minister has visited Israel. Mrs. Ciller will meet with President Weizman, Prime Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Peres.

Ciller, Peres Discuss Cooperation

TA0311171094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500
GMT 3 Nov 94

[Italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and Turkey are both interested in fighting terrorism and Islamic extremism. This was said by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who is visiting Israel for the first time. Ciller visited Libya two days ago and is conveying a message from al-Qadhdhafi, a message Foreign Minister Peres defined as vague. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] This evening Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will sign a police cooperation agreement aimed at establishing a joint struggle against terrorism, drug trafficking, and crime. Earlier today Ciller arrived on a first-ever visit by a Turkish prime minister to Israel. Ciller visited Libya two days ago, but she says she did not discuss the possibility of negotiations between Jerusalem and Tripoli:

[Ciller] Well, we did not discuss that issue, no.

[Segal translates the above and continues] At the same time Foreign Minister Peres said she did convey a message from al-Qadhdhafi, albeit a message he defined as vague.

The Turkish prime minister is accompanied by 200 businessmen and journalists, her clear intention being to place Turkey in an advantageous position in anticipation of the expected economic development in the Middle East. Ciller emphasized the excellent relations between Turkey and Israel. Apparently, however, she is not familiar with the domestic political situation in Israel:

[Ciller, in progress] ...have Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres come together to Turkey so that we can enjoy the Nobel Prize winners.

[Segal, translating the above and continuing] I hope to see the prime minister and foreign minister vacation in Turkey together in celebration of their Nobel Peace Prize. The idea of Rabin and Peres vacationing together in Antalya produced some smiles on the faces of those invited to lunch with Ciller.

Another issue that Ciller raised was the antiterror war. She warns that fundamentalism is a dangerous phenomenon that could penetrate Europe. Foreign Minister Peres stressed the strategic aspect—Turkey as a modern, secular Muslim state as opposed to the fanatic and fundamentalist Iran:

[Peres] This is a real demonstration of strategic, political, and economic cooperation which will serve the two

countries. I attribute great importance to this cooperation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ciller on Antiterror Cooperation

TA0311175494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600
GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller says the fight against terror has to incorporate the cooperation of Syria. She was speaking to the World Zionist Organization's Council on Foreign Relations. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed that a message had been received from Libya's ruler, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In it, al-Qadhdhafi reportedly offered to be more flexible on the issue of terrorism, but Peres said the message was incoherent. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Ciller said the Kurdish separatist organization, the PKK, kills without distinction Turks and Kurds who do not agree with its policy. They go into coffee houses and shoot people indiscriminately, she said, and she hinted that Syria bears part of the responsibility for giving the PKK shelter on its territory.

[Ciller, in progress] ...that the fight against terror has to incorporate the cooperation of Syria. We feel right after that Lebanon would probably follow. This is a dramatic [word indistinct] that is in one.

[Katzenell] Turkey pressed Israel to make an express commitment against the PKK, but Israel refused, and in the agreement the two countries are signing Israel makes only a general commitment, as I heard from Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] [words indistinct] the good example is if you have an information concerning cooperation between different terrorist groups and it will affect our country or other countries, there is an obligation to exchange whatever we have about information, and mostly, I would say, the cooperation will be in methods in training and not in specific issues. [passage omitted]

[Katzenell] Prime Minister Ciller was asked about the report that she had brought a message from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, offering to be more flexible on issues of terrorism. The message reportedly concerned the Lockerbie affair. Ciller evaded the question, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said al-Qadhdhafi's message was incoherent. [end recording]

Rabin, Ciller Sign Agreements

TA0411061694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Turkey last night signed two agreements, one on joining efforts to fight terrorism and crime in general, especially drug trafficking; the other on ties in the communication field. The treaties were finalized at the end of the first day of the visit by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, the most

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senior Turkish official ever to come to Israel. Ciller and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed the agreements at a banquet at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Addressing several hundred invited guests and members of the Turkish and Israeli media, Prime Minister Rabin said peace in the region would be achieved by fighting both terrorism and poverty. He also thanked the Turkish prime minister for coming to Israel.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] You have come, Madame Prime Minister, to Israel in a period in which hopes for peace, realizing that there are dangers on the road to peace. You have come over as the first prime minister of Turkey to visit officially the State of Israel. You had the courage to change many things in your country. You had the courage to change many things in the relationships with the countries of the region and the world. We owe you a lot for your determination, for your courage, for your readiness for cooperation for peace, stability, and tranquility in the region. [end recording]

In a speech that referred to the centuries-long ties between Turks and Jews, Prime Minister Ciller also looked toward a brighter future for the region:

[Begin Ciller recording] Hope has dawned in the Middle East. Let us not miss it. As the late Nehru once said: A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new. You are seizing that moment, others are seizing that moment. Blessed are the peacemakers. You are at the helm of governing at the most crucial time. We in Turkey wish you well in the task of peacemaking. We are ready to contribute to it in any way we can. [end recording]

Rabinovich on Clinton's Claim on Syrian Concessions

TA0411062794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, has backed U.S. President Bill Clinton's claim that he gained some concession in his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, but described the shifts as marginal. Speaking to reporters in Washington, Rabinovich also said that Israel has not asked to hold a summit between al-Asad and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] This is not something that we asked for. Of course, when asked about it, the prime minister, the foreign minister, all Israeli spokesmen on questions of foreign policy and national security, would tell you that we think that such meetings are important and should take place. But it's not something that we seek. It's not a favor that Syria needs to do unto us. [end recording]

Record Number of Residents Said To Join Golan Town

TA0311112994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 13

[Report by Goga Kogan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The largest ever rise in the number of people settling in Qatzrin on the Golan Heights was registered over the past three months. According to Interior Ministry data, some 345 people—of whom 180 are new immigrants—have moved to Qatzrin while 42 have left, meaning that the going 21 percent of the population.

According to the local council personnel, the rise in the number of residents is noted across all age groups, but the main rise is in those aged between 22 and 40.

In view of its recent success, the Housing Ministry has decided to sell the last 120 apartments left in Qatzrin, to those eligible for government subsidized mortgages. The ministry expects to sell those apartments in a few weeks, which would leave no vacant apartment in the town. Last year, the Housing Ministry sold some 600 apartments there.

Rabin on 'Fanatical Islam,' Economic Issues

TA0411120894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that, today, Syria and Lebanon are not the enemies of peace. According to him, fanatical Islam is the enemy of peace and war should be waged against it. The prime minister was speaking at a special meeting of the Labor Bureau. Our party affairs correspondent Sefi Hendler has the details:

[Begin recording] [Hendler] Here, at the Labor Party Building, the debate on the party's working plan for the period up to the elections continues at this time. Party Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin who opened the debate did not say much on internal party affairs, but spoke at length about the threat of Islamic terrorism. Today, Rabin said, the enemies of peace are not Syria and Lebanon. Rather it is the extremist, terrorist, fundamentalist, fanatical Islam spread across the Arab world which carries out terror attacks against us.

[Rabin] If we do not deal with the two main enemies of peace—radical, terroristic Islam on the one hand, and poverty and illiteracy on the other—there will be no stability in the Middle East. If our political contracts with Egypt, the Palestinians, and Jordan fail to change the feeling of the inhabitants of those countries and entities linked with the peace process and about which we have reached agreements, and if there is no change in the socioeconomic status of the population—the achievements made so far, will be questioned.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 4 November, carries a similar report by party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal adding that, upon leaving the debate, Rabin was asked: "How does the need to defeat Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad coincide with the need to allow the Palestinian Authority [PA] exercise its power over the residents?" Saying there is no contradiction between the two, the

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prime minister answers in a recorded passage: "First of all, we must demand that in the areas under its responsibility, the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the PA make an effort—through its police force and security services—to have the law and public order observed and to prevent those regions from becoming launching pads for attacks inside Israel. Anyone who finds it difficult to impose his authority in the territories, will have a problem because there is doubt that he would then be able to represent them in dealing with us."]

[Hendler] After speaking about some economic issues, Rabin concluded by saying: The bottom line is that as we arrive at the midterm mark, Labor can look back with pride at the government's activity.

The debate on the Labor work plan, presented by Secretary General Nisim Zvili, continues. The plan sets a schedule for the next two years: A party conference in January 1996; primaries for the party's candidate for prime minister in March 1996; and in May, primaries for the party Knesset list.

Minister Mikha Harish, former party secretary general, came out against the plan and, speaking in very harsh terms, said that Labor is today clinically dead and called for a more thorough discussion. The plan is scheduled to be ratified in another debate that will be held in two weeks. [end recording]

Border Police Antiterrorist Unit Revealed

TA0411114694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 94 p A16

[Report by Bill Hutman and Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Its members disguised as Arabs and operating in the heart of Palestinian villages and towns, a Border Police undercover unit has been a major force in the war against terror.

Yesterday, after four years of operation in which it was involved in the killing or capture of some 120 terrorists, the unit was officially "uncovered" for the first time.

"Even while we are talking peace, such units as this must continue to operate, to ensure the nation remains strong," said President Ezer Weizman, after reviewing the unit's work.

At a base in the desert, policemen serving with the unit, founded in 1990, demonstrated their special methods and weapons. Chief Superintendent N., the unit's commander, revealed that special techniques were recently developed to capture terrorists on their way to kidnap hitchhikers.

"Even while Israel reaches out with one hand for peace, it must always have the second hand on the trigger," said N., who has over a decade's experience in anti-terror operations.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terrorists are the unit's primary targets. N. said that, since its founding, the unit had killed 50 terrorists and captured 70 "serious terrorists," as well as dozens of other activists.

The president watched undercover policemen practice entering a crowded Palestinian "market" where a nationalistic march, including armed terrorists, was under way. The policemen pulled up in a vehicle with territories license plates and surprised the "terrorists," opening fire and killing them.

N. said that members of the unit in many cases do not need disguises to blend into the communities where they operate.

"Our guys enter a market in Qalqilyah like they enter Mahane Yehuda in Jerusalem," N. said. "They feel comfortable and they know how to react in any situation."

He said part of their undercover training involves simply walking around an Arab village or town acquainting themselves with the surroundings and habits of the people.

"If there is someone who feels uncomfortable in such a situation, he does not stay in the unit," N. said, noting that while service in the unit is tough, most members complete their time and often sign on for more. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Plan Noted for Development in Jerusalem

TA0411115494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 94 p B2

[Article by Bill Hutman: "Capital's Secret Plan: New Roads, New Homes"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It's a closely guarded secret and it has far-reaching political implications. It's only a plan for a metropolitan area, but then, Jerusalem is not like other cities.

An interministerial committee that has been meeting for two years to determine plans for development in metropolitan Jerusalem has nearly completed its work, committee sources revealed this week.

However, the principles set down by the committee reflect policies that are already being pursued by the ministries involved, and affect plans to build everything from new homes to new roads in the Jerusalem area.

The sources said a sharp Palestinian reaction is expected to the plan because of the changes it calls for in areas over the Green Line which are slated to come under Palestinian control.

For that reason, the committee's proceedings and the final proposal it is now completing are being kept as secret as possible.

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The sources, meanwhile, emphasized that if the plan is presented correctly by the government as beneficial to both Israelis and Palestinians, the Palestinian leadership could be convinced of its importance.

"This is going to be a major test of whether this peace is for real, and whether there is really going to be cooperation," one of the sources said.

The details are being finalized by officials from the Interior, Housing and Transport ministries and Israel Lands Administration. The final product is to be presented to Prime Minister Rabin soon. Such a plan would normally just be presented to the interior minister, but because of the sensitivity of the area, it will in all likelihood have to be approved by the entire government.

The sections involving areas in Samaria have already been shown to at least one government minister, in the hope that the plan can be presented to Palestinian leaders for consideration.

The proposals for the Jerusalem metropolitan area—bordered to the north by Ramallah and the south by Bethlehem, and including Ma'ale Adumim to the east and Bet Shemesh to the west—center on the construction of two new highways linking the coast and Jerusalem.

One highway, No. 45, is slated to enter Jerusalem from the north and is the most controversial because it goes through areas that are expected to come under Palestinian authority in Samaria.

Highway No. 45 is to start from the Tel Aviv area, pass Ben-Gurion Airport, and then cut south just before Ramallah toward Jerusalem. It is meant to provide an excellent route for commercial traffic to and from Jerusalem, Ramallah and other Arab and Jewish communities in the area.

Planners, who have dubbed the proposal the "peace highway," say it will eventually continue to Amman.

Service and industrial areas are proposed along Highway No. 45 between the airport and Jerusalem.

The committee did not address the issue of housing construction along the route because it is over the Green Line.

The other highway, No. 39, is slated to run from Ashdod, pass just south of Bet Shemesh and Zur Hadassa, and enter the capital from the southwest. This highway would be within the Green Line all the way, and is meant to serve a greatly expanded Bet Shemesh, giving residents there easy access to Jerusalem. Major growth expansion is also slated for Zur Hadassa.

The planners recognized the massive housing crunch in Jerusalem and the need to find solutions, and fast. But they opted against allowing the city to simply expand outwards in the effort to build new homes.

Instead, home-buyers in Jerusalem will be encouraged—as they already are—to move to Bet Shemesh or even Modi'in.

The metropolitan Jerusalem plan also calls for the continued expansion of Ma'ale Adumim, just east of the capital.

"We were working under the assumption that there is a consensus surrounding Ma'ale Adumim," although the community lies over the Green Line, the committee source said.

The committee resisted allowing for construction in the few remaining undeveloped valleys and wadis in Jerusalem. They will be preserved to protect the city's character.

The plan calls for several thousand units to be built in existing neighborhoods and several large undeveloped tracts, most notably Har Homa in southern Jerusalem. The committee also recommends building high rises in the city center.

A recent survey by the Engineers, Architects and Academics Bureau showed that nearly 50,000 units could be built in Jerusalem without damaging the city's natural beauty.

The committee, meanwhile, also set sharp limits on development within the Jerusalem corridor—what today is largely a green belt with only small communities between Sha'ar Hagay and the capital.

The planners want construction in the corridor to be limited to the boundaries of the existing communities. Green areas are to remain untouched.

This week, that principle was nearly violated. Several Jerusalem corridor moshavim and kibbutzim proposed massive housing development on agricultural and undeveloped land they lease from the Israel Lands Administration.

Bet Neqofa proposed the construction of some 4,000 units near Route 1 and Mevasseret Yerushalayim. 'Aminadav also wanted to build 4,000 units in the Arazim Valley at the western entrance to the capital. Giv'at Ye'arim planned to build 6,850 units and Kesalon over 2,500 units in the same valley.

If the proposals had been approved, the Jerusalem metropolitan area would have fast looked like the Tel Aviv megalopolis, where development continues without differentiation between communities, with barely a forest or grassy knoll in sight.

"It would have been a disaster," said Tzipi Ron, head of the Jerusalem branch of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

Those behind the projects, however, said they were trying to do what the government wanted: build homes

to help ease the housing crunch. They charged "the greens" with being insensitive to the needs of young couples in Jerusalem.

In the end, however, the Committee for Expediting Construction (Valal) rejected the Bet Neqofa project, and the other communities withdrew their plans from the committee hearing for fear theirs wouldn't be approved either.

The Valal committee—sharply criticized in the past for providing the loophole whereby many poorly thought-out plans were approved—kept to the principles set down by the committee on metropolitan Jerusalem.

For the moment, this simply shows that those principles are already widely supported by state planners.

But soon the government itself will have to decide on the matter, and determine just how Israel wants Jerusalem and its environs to look in the 21st century.

REFA'EL To Eliminate Weapons, Missile Division

TA0311120494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by Uri Sharon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two days ago, the management of REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] notified the workers' committee and the Histadrut labor federation representative at the Haifa district that it is about to eliminate its Weapons and Missiles Division, in a similar fashion to the way it had broken up the Technical Assistance Division several months ago. The reason given: economic unfeasibility and a worldwide drop in arms sales.

The Weapons and Missiles Division employs some 800 workers. The Histadrut reported yesterday that the REFA'EL management intends to fire some 300 of them and relocate the remaining 500 to other divisions. [passage omitted]

The management has decided to turn the Weapons and Missiles Division into two separate product-oriented administrations that would work for the defense establishment and foreign clients. This is expected to stop the heavy losses the division had suffered over the recent years, save expenses, and reduce the number of workers by several hundred.

Levi, Der'i, Labor, Likud Discuss New Center Party

TA0311114494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past several months, Knesset Members [MK] David Levi and Arye Der'i, and Labor and Likud figures have been holding talks and contacts on the possibility of setting up a new party for the 1996 elections. The idea is to set up a politically central party, neither left- nor right-wing, which would be based on mainly socioeconomic messages and would rely on voters of North African origin.

The contacts in which this possibility is being discussed involve some activists of the "Levi camp" in the Likud Party, headed by Likud Central Committee Chairman Maxim Levi; David 'Amar, head of the Nesher Local Council; Dimona Mayor Gabi Lalush; and Nahariyya Mayor Jack Sabag. Labor members who are taking part in these talks are MK Shlomo Buhbut, and several former central committee members, including Shlomo Avitan and Mordekhay Sason.

No practical steps have been taken so far on this new body, and the talks have not gone beyond initial contacts. Levi and Der'i have not yet made any binding decisions on the issue.

Last week, MK Levi refused to confirm that the talks indeed deal with setting up a new party, but he said that in his tours of Israel he detects a popular yearning for a new political body. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister on Peace Treaty, Arab Relations*JN0311123094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
3 Nov 94 p 27*

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Dr. Nabil al-Sharif and Ahmad Shakir in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-DUSTUR] Mr. Prime Minister: Following the frank speech His Majesty King Husayn delivered in which he commented on the House of Representatives' reply to his speech from the throne, his majesty touched on extremely important issues. However, his majesty's remarks seemed to indicate that the relationship between the executive and legislative branches is not normal. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Majali] I do not believe that the relationship between the Executive and Legislative Branches is bad and it is not among our objectives to have a confrontation. On the contrary, we always seek harmony. This is because the deputies were elected to secure the people's interests. His majesty the king appointed this government for the welfare of the public. Therefore, we proceed on the same path. This is the truth. Regrettably, what has happened is that the opposition has misinterpreted the government's actions. We believe in democracy and in the freedom of expression. However, opposition has its rules. Among these rules is that you should not accuse others of infidelity, heresy, or prostitution, nor should you sanction the shedding of their blood. If I replied in the same manner, there would be a tragedy. However, the government abstains from such things. But we believe in respecting other opinions. Moreover, the opposition should guide us to what we cannot see, and should not destroy what we do. We do not seek to destroy what they do. Neither do we seek to deprive them of their rights. The opposition should contribute to the development process and to teach others how to build so that the construction will be better. Destruction is always easier than construction. When you want to construct a building, it will take you a long time and a lot of money, but when you destroy it you can bring in a cheap bomb that will destroy the building in an instant.

I hope that there will be no destruction between the two branches of power, and the objective will always be construction. We will always respect the other opinion. However, when this opinion becomes destructive, then this is annoying.

[AL-DUSTUR] Mr. Prime Minister, to continue on this topic allow me to tell you some of what the opposition members say. They say that the government began to tire of hearing the other opinion, that the government does not give permission to hold certain symposiums, and that some meetings were canceled although the approval was obtained in advance, and they give examples. Is it true that the government has begun to get sick of the other opinion?

[Al-Majali] We are vigilant, and we are in charge of security. Security is something sacred to us. There are other topics on which they can say whatever they want, and we will not have a fight with them.

With regard to meetings, they are also free, and they have whole newspapers. Have you seen in the opposition newspapers any praise of any government? They are actually full of abuse. Even the official media sometimes cites the views of the opposition. However, we cannot prompt the official media to use such offensive and painful words because we take the people's feelings into account. If we had used such words, it would have created many reactions.

We support the right of the opposition to express its views. Hence, they publish what they please in their press. Even in the daily press, articles opposing the government are written, and we respect this. Have we interfered in your papers, put pressures on you, or told you to write this or not to write that? We do not interfere, and we will not interfere, so why are we accused of interfering?

The opposition papers do not talk about the government's achievements, nor do they publish the government statements correctly. At the same time, they cast doubt on these statements. Moreover, when the opposition demands to hold a seminar in a public place, the law does not permit this. The state-owned places cannot be given as venues for political competitions. We cannot respond to the demands of all political parties; otherwise, a conflict would develop.

We have not prevented any institution or any political party, whether from the opposition or not, from leasing any private place and expressing its views. As I said, such expression should be made through speeches, remarks, and articles in the press. Sometimes, they demand to stage a march. A march, however, is different from words. It involves the masses, so outsiders can join these marches. This, we fear, will create a dispute. Naturally, all the political parties do not agree on a clear line. For example, if someone from a different party joins a march and becomes offended, a spark will then be sufficient to ignite a fire. You can set fire to bushes with one spark. Is this what is wanted?

We permitted them to stage a sit-in near the Prime Ministry, and told them: You are welcome. However, we cannot permit political meetings in the mosques. This is impermissible, and if we permit such meetings you should criticize us. Speaking of this issue, leftist parties asked us to permit them to deliver speeches inside the mosques if we permit these people to do so. Is it permissible for us to turn the mosques into an arena for political conflicts, especially since the preacher has his own immunity?

If someone abuses a political party or figure from a pulpit, regardless of who this figure is, there must be someone to oppose this, someone who has the right to

defend his own opinion. How can you prevent the latter's right to opposition. He should speak. Sedition is thus fomented. Therefore, we should avoid discussing politics. This is because politics, as is known, can change, and so can people. Otherwise, who has thus far objected to a Friday sermon discussing principles, ethics, and social issues. If you want to discuss politics from the pulpits, 22 political parties should be permitted to do so, and this is unacceptable.

[AL-DUSTUR] Your Excellency, you spoke about an improvement in Jordanian-Western relations. Is there any improvement in Arab relations?

[Al-Majali] Yes, there is improvement. We invited the Kuwaiti brothers. They thanked us for the invitation and would have come had they not been busy with specific matters.

The Qatari foreign minister invited me to visit Qatar. There will be another visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. As you know, I met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan in Geneva. It was a warm and cordial meeting. We also want relations with the Saudi brothers to be good relations. We want good relations with all, but we cannot impose our opinion on people. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] Your Excellency, also concerning the peace process, there are many in Jordan who are apprehensive because there is not an adequate infrastructure in Jordan when compared to Israel and some fee that economic developments will take place at Jordan's expense as well. What do you tell these?

[Al-Majali] Sir, there will be no peace so long as the average annual income in Jordan is \$1,200-1,300 a year while in Israel it is \$15,000. From this premise, the bases of peace will be to upgrade the standard of living of the individual. How can this take place? This can be achieved through investments. Investments will eradicate unemployment and poverty. The only way to eradicate unemployment and poverty is through investments, whether local and, Arab investments, or investments by friendly countries. This can take place only if there is peace and stability. Therefore, peace is one of the main conditions for investments. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] Is there anything new on the Syrian track?

[Al-Majali] You know there is, by God. You have read about the latest developments in the Washington press and in the press of other countries. I can say that the Syrian issue resembles a scientific equation. It consists of clear facts. There are defined borders and lands that existed during the French and British mandate. There are known international borders. The Israeli settlements are also specified and everything is clear. You can have this or that. The equation is clear.

As for us, there is the issue of water. What water rights do we have? The sea used to be our border. Should the borders be the middle of the two highest points, the course of a river, or something else? This is a question because our borders have never been demarcated and specified. That's why it was difficult. That's why when we saw there was some response, we grasped the opportunity and obtained our rights. We cannot say when the wind should blow and when it should stop.

Bomb Explodes Near Store; No Casualties Reported

JN0411123594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source in the Interior Ministry has stated that at 0015 today, Friday, 4 November 1994 [2215 GMT 3 November] an explosion was heard in the area around First Circle in Jabal Amman. Investigations have shown that the explosion resulted from a timed explosive device placed in front of a grocery store. As a result of the explosion, the store's facade sustained minor damages. No casualties were reported. The competent agencies have begun investigating the incident.

Yeltsin Congratulates King, Pledges Support

JN0311080994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn on Wednesday [2 November] received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin marking the third anniversary of the launching of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Mr. Yeltsin said in his message that the conference gave "real impetus to peace" and served as "a turning point for the Israelis and Arabs alike, prompting them towards embarking on peaceful coexistence," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Yeltsin paid tribute to Arab and Israeli leaders for their courageous steps towards peace and said that the leaders on both sides had expressed determination in directing their potential towards economic development, Petra said.

The Russian leader also said his country would continue to extend help to all the concerned parties so that they arrive at their final objectives. [passage omitted]

Opposition: Government Putting Peace 'Above Democracy'

JN0311120294 Amman THE STAR in English 3-9 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Ben Wedeman, "Special to THE STAR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A majority of Jordanians appear to support the peace agreement signed last week

in Wadi al-'Arabah. Yet the opposition to the agreement commands the support of a significant minority, which is concerned that the new era of peace will only yield bitter fruits for Jordan.

Over the past week Amman has been the scene of demonstrations for and against the peace treaty. The former have received the lion's share of media coverage, something which has raised the ire of the opposition.

According to Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, "The opposition is not being given a fair chance to express its views." As a result, "people are very surprised at the fast pace of normalization that the government is adopting."

Supporters of the peace process downplay such claims, and even suggest the opposition is motivated by narrow political considerations. The opponents of the peace agreement "don't want peace or security or stability in the Middle East," Parliamentary Deputy Fawwaz al-Zu'bi told THE STAR. "I believe every opponent of the agreement knows the truth, but finds it difficult to speak the truth." He described the opposition as "very, very, very small."

The peace agreement, he said, "has brought our people to the shores of safety."

Said centrist Deputy Hammad Abu-Jamus, the opposition "have their own papers. And there isn't a single word taken from what they say, so they have complete freedom to express their opinions."

After a week of frustration, the local opposition to the treaty is warning that dark days are ahead for Jordanian democracy.

"The tolerance of the Government toward the opposition is next to zero now," Dr. Labib Qamhawi, vice president of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, told THE STAR. The Government, he added, "is willing to tolerate symbolic opposition which is not effective in terms of the international media or in terms of moving the street."

The opposition is particularly concerned in the aftermath of the violent attack on IAF Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant on Friday. Abu-Zant, an outspoken critic of the peace process and a volatile orator, was attacked by several unknown men in the Abu-Hurayrah mosque in East Amman. He received 15 stitches to the head and 7 on the leg. Several newspapers linked to the opposition have accused the Government of collusion in the attack.

"What happened on Friday doesn't make anyone happy," remarked Hilmi al-Asmar, editor-in-chief of the Islamist weekly, AL-SABIL. He stressed that the opposition is motivated by patriotism, and a dedication to the interests of Jordan. "We are a constructive, not a destructive opposition... The voice of the opposition is nothing to be ashamed of. it is proof that the people are alive and aware."

On Saturday Parliament discussed the incident at Abu-Hurayrah, and deputies condemned the attack on deputy Abu-Zant. They also reiterated the right of all Jordanians to express their opinions.

Such reassuring statements notwithstanding, the opposition is worried that the Government has placed the peace process above democracy. "This period requires absolute obedience, and this is why democracy is a luxury that the Government will not tolerate or accept," said Labib Qamhawi. He added, however, that this is a phase, and the system will loosen up within a few months. "After everything is finalized and settled down, the only way the Government can give legitimacy to what has happened...is through the reintroduction of some democratic measures."

Qamhawi also decried the tendency to paint the opposition with a broad brush, characterizing it as predominantly Islamist. "Many nationalists, many pan-Arabists, many normal, ordinary Jordanians are against this treaty. Some are against the very principle because they don't trust the Israelis, and some, who are more sophisticated, are against the kind of concessions which this treaty gave to the Israel."

Pro-agreement deputy Abu-Jamus conceded that the speed with which the agreement was concluded and signed has left many Jordanians in a state of shock. With time, however, they will become accustomed to the new reality. "It is not easy," he said, "for people after 45 years of war and hostility to suddenly come and say 'we are friends.'"

For some in the opposition, the best way to face the challenge of confronting the coming phase will be to simply keep their heads down and wait until it is over. Said AL-SABIL's Hilmi al-Asmar: "If we try to resist this tempest, it will destroy. So we must ride out the storm until it passes."

Antitreaty Deputy Says Opposition 'Broad'

JN0311150694 Amman THE STAR in English
3-9 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Bassam Haddadin, "independent" deputy in the Jordanian House of Representatives, by Ra'id al-'Abid in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The peace agreement was negotiated and signed in what many people consider record time. In your opinion, what was the reason for the timing? Why was the agreement concluded so quickly?

I think the reason behind the government's haste to sign the treaty and go along with the settlement is that the government wanted to take advantage of the situation during the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Israelis want to use progress with Jordan as pressure so that Lebanon and Syria will also sign a peace treaty.

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It is clear that there is also an American-Israeli insistence to penetrate the Jordanian front to solve their internal issues. The American President needs fast victories on the external front to help his party in the coming legislative elections. Also the Israeli prime minister needs this rapid progress to improve his party's popularity.

The government's priorities is the interest of Jordan. Whilst I agree with this, nevertheless, we have to consider the interests of others.

It is also clear that the action of the government was a reaction to what has happened on the Palestinian level. This includes the Oslo and Cairo accords setting self-rule for the Palestinians. This meant that the Palestinians, however tentatively, were removed from the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinians practically chose to go it alone without any consultations with the other parties involved in the peace negotiations.

This is why Jordan came to put its interests first.

How do you view the government's fear of the opposition's activities?

The government is over reacting. It is panicking.

This is because it realizes the real size of the opposition to this treaty is broad, and that Jordanians are prepared to express their opinion in different forms.

This is why the government has "inflated" the security measures it has taken. This included deploying the Army and other security agencies in the streets to prevent any peaceful and democratic activity and they even banned legal activities.

This exaggerated reaction has driven us to the limits of anxiety, reminding us of the era of martial law, when we were denied the minimum rights of expression.

The government does not need to take such action, creating psychological fear because our people are aware and educated, and has the ability to express their opinion in a civilized and democratic way. These provocations (by the government) will only widen the gap between the government and the people. What is urgently needed now is to deepen democracy and freedom of expression.

How do you expect Jordanians to react when Israeli tourists and businessmen arrive in Jordan?

I believe that there is a psychological barrier between Jordanians and Israelis that was built over long painful years of bloody conflict, in which the Arab side suffered from Israeli injustice and aggression.

Jordanians feel that this treaty with Israel is imposed upon them. The (Israelis) agreed to sign a treaty because they are in a stronger position than us. I believe that Jordanians will suffer the most from normalization.

Peace requires changes in the school curriculum. How do you feel about that?

Any review of the curriculum of schools and universities does not proceed from the objective of improving the educational system but it serves the narrow interests of other parties. Therefore, it will harm our sovereignty, education and civilization.

I will strongly resist any external interference in our educational system. Jordanian education should be the sole concern of Jordanian authors. Writing our history must be left to us.

Pro-Treaty Deputy Says Nation Supports Peace

JN0311150394 Amman THE STAR in English
3-9 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Hammad Abu-Jamus, independent member of the House of Representatives and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, by Ben Wedeman in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **The peace agreement was negotiated and signed in what many people consider record time. In your opinion, what was the reason for the timing? Why was the agreement concluded so quickly?**

It wasn't concluded so quickly. The negotiations have been going on since Madrid, and Jordan agreed with Israel on the agenda long before anyone else. But Jordan waited all that time for the other Arab parties to complete their negotiations in order to have a complete and comprehensive agreement. But Jordan realized that the Palestinians went to Oslo and ran their own show, and that the Syrians and the Lebanese are on their way to running their own show. So Jordan decided to come up with the agreement which has already been negotiated and discussed.

Do you think the Jordanian people are ready for peace this quickly?

Through the real opinion of the people, and where I come from, where I run my show during the elections, more than 84 percent of the people support peace with Israel. I must say that the speed with which it came surprised so many people, so that they are in a sort of shock about the speed. But I assure you that more than 84 percent of the people are with the peace.

The opposition is complaining that they are not being given the opportunity to air their views. What is your reaction to that?

We sit every day in the Parliament and their views are carried out in the local media and they circulate their opinion about what is going on. They have their own papers, I read their papers. And there isn't a single word taken from what they say, so they have complete freedom to express their opinions.

Although in some cases their marches and demonstrations have been banned.

They banned it for both supporters and opponents. They haven't banned (demonstrations): all that the government wants is that they obtain permission. Anybody who gets permission will be allowed to (demonstrate). and there was a demonstration at Jordan University just the other day.

What is your position on the possible modification of school curriculums to conform with the articles of the peace agreement?

I'm not sure what is going to take place, what curriculum they want, but that is a subject that will be left to the technical committee, with the minister of education, the minister of higher education, and so on. I cannot really comment on this.

The agreement also includes an article that bans hostile propaganda to the other party. Isn't there a possibility that that article could be interpreted to put pressure on the opposition not to express itself.

No sir, absolutely not. This article applies only to the official media, but not to the press. There is a specific article in the peace agreement which gives full freedom to anybody to express their opinion.

No matter how hostile that might be to Israel?

It could be both, because there are people in Israel hostile to Jordan. This is the freedom of speech. It is guaranteed by both.

How do you think ordinary Jordanians, people on the streets of Amman, are going to respond to the presence, very soon, of Israeli tourists and businessmen?

I believe they will eventually accept it. But it will take some time. You have to remember we have been at war for the last 45 years. It is not easy for people after 45 years of war and hostility to suddenly come and say "you are my friends." It is in the Arabic tradition that there are always feuds, and then there is conciliation. You kiss each other and then you become friends. But even that takes some time before you normalize among yourselves, even among Arabs. So with the Israelis, it will take some time to accept them.

So can we look at the agreement as the kissing and making up? Now can we expect the people to greet the Israelis with open arms?

That is what I said. Among Arabs, it is our tradition, when you have enmity between two sides, that you reconcile by kissing each other and shaking hands, but it takes some time afterwards to adjust yourself psychologically.

Last week there was an incident between a Jordanian and an American tourist who was actually an Israeli...

This is one of the odd cases. Yesterday there was an incident in which someone was stabbed at a chemist. Why don't you say something about it? Why do you make a fuss about (the first incident) and not that one? It is a normal thing. It happens in the streets of London, New York, and even Tel Aviv.

Although the police made a direct link between the citizenship of the man stabbed and the incident.

Yes, but it is still one of those incidents which rarely happen in Jordan, very, very rarely. Jordan is the most stable country in the Middle East, as you know. If one isolated incident takes place, it shouldn't be made into a big issue.

The day the treaty was signed I spoke with a student from Jordan University who said he was worried because he saw on Israeli television that everyone was celebrating, while in Amman it was quiet. How do you react to that, to the idea that Israel has more to celebrate than Jordan does?

This is what I said before. To us it was so sudden, every though the people knew in advance that we have been negotiating for the past three years. The time had come when this peace treaty had to be finalized. But because it came so quickly, people were stunned, but not because people are against peace. I assure you that the vast majority of the Jordanian people is with peace.

Political Prisoner Released From Syrian Jail

JN3110104794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
31 Oct 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Ma'mun al-Rawsan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Dafi al-Jam'ani returned to Amman yesterday evening after being released by the Syrian authorities yesterday morning.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Jam'ani, who spent 23 years in Syrian prisons, said: His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to release me have been successful. The king delegated [former Prime Minister] Zayd al-Rifa'i to mediate my release with the Syrian authorities. He added: The release order was expected four months ago and was not a surprise. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that al-Jam'ani was one of the prisoners of conscience whose case was taken up by Amnesty International and by other Arab and international humanitarian organizations. He was an Arab Army officer, a member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party until 1970, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Popular Liberation War Vanguard-al-Sa'iqah until his arrest.

Hizballah on Safety of Jewish Tourists, Trade

NC0311065894 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0630 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has warned against normalization between the Arabs and Israel, stressing that Jewish tourists and trade in the region will not be safe.

In a statement following the economic summit for the Middle East and North Africa in Casablanca, Hizballah said that the people of the region reject the normalization the regimes are trying to force on them. The statement added that the nation will resist normalization and will strike blows at it, because its goal is to create a Middle East common market with its capital in Tel Aviv.

Israeli Shelling Follows Attack; Base Hit

NC0411103094 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic* 0945 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Resistance elements this morning detonated an explosive device as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] foot patrol was passing near Kafr Huna in the Jazzin area. A Resistance statement said all the members of the patrol were killed or wounded in the operation. Security sources confirmed the operation and said one SLA member was killed.

Following the attack Israeli and SLA artillery in al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rihan shelled the area opposite Kafr Huna, concentrating on al-Jabal al-Rafi' and the Nab' al-Tasah basin.

Today SLA elements found the body of an Islamic Resistance member while they were combing Bayt Yahun.

Our correspondent in Tyre reported that the headquarters of the Irish contingent in Haris was hit by five mortar shells during Israeli shelling of villages in the central sector yesterday. Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said soldiers' living quarters and communication rooms were extensively damaged and the clinic and three military vehicles were also damaged. The Irish contingent's center in Bayt Yahun was also hit by hundreds of machine-gun rounds fired from an Israeli position in the town. Goksel said UNIFIL did not identify the source of the fire but said this type of round is used by the Israelis.

LF Statement Urges Christians To Stand Fast

MM0111163094 *London AL-HAYAH in Arabic* 1 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Forces Command Council: Leadership Responsible for Resistance's Defeat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Command Council of the (outlawed) "Lebanese Forces" [LF] held its regular meeting and issued the following statement:

"1. The LF, proceeding from a reality that has become clear and a comprehensive review of developments since 1989, acknowledges that the Christian resistance was dealt a severe blow that led to a historic defeat with dramatic results. The Command Council holds those who took charge of the Christians' leadership—political, military, and spiritual—including the Forces' leadership itself, responsible for this huge defeat. However, the LF, despite the horror of the catastrophe that has afflicted Lebanon and the Christians, does not believe that this defeat is final, despite the worsening reality. Because the Christian people in Lebanon experienced similar crises throughout their history and managed to overcome them. Adherence to values and principles was the marked factor in rising up after the defeats, despite all the pressures. On that basis, the LF once again announces the withdrawal of its recognition of the al-Ta'if agreement and its rejection of all its results and by-products. The Forces' position comes within the framework of protecting the Lebanese Christians' rights in the future and working to find a serious alternative to the regime in the framework of the people's right to determine their destiny, and to secure freedom, security, and peace for all the peoples in the region.

"2. The LF urges the people to stand fast, despite all forms of pressure, repression, and freedom suppression. The Forces addresses in particular the young people, calling on them to stand solidly in their positions and to assume the task of mobilizing society and protecting it against the disease of frustration. The priority at this stage is the psychological battle and its moral results. Because the present authorities and forces hostile to the Christians are working with all their strength to strike at the Christian identity and to eliminate the Lebanese Christians' rights. Thus it is clear that the natural response to this onslaught is to adhere to the identity and historic convictions until the right conditions arrive.

"3. The LF believes that regional developments involve numerous dangers for Lebanon and its Christians in particular. Because they might bring changes that must be benefited from if the factors are adequate. If the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace expands to include more radical states, including Syria, and if a serious and practical peace is established between Israel and the Syrian regime, there are changes which can be benefited from in order to exploit peace to recover part of the political freedom. But if the peace process falters and is destroyed by radical and fundamentalist forces, we must prepare for a crucial struggle phase to restore the balance of powers in the region and in Lebanon.

"4. The LF Command Council announces that it is in the process of reshaping and organizing what has become fragmented, scattered, and 'deviant' in the resistance institution. Obviously this process will require a lot of time and extraordinary efforts in these circumstances. Thus the council, even though it has started slowly as regards taking organizational steps and suitable measures, once again warns everyone entrusted with part of

the the resistance's destiny inside and outside the country against squandering or concealing it.

"5. The LF Command Council announces that it has become the sole supreme authority for all LF institutions. It warns any group or former official—inside or outside the country—not to speak in the LF's name. The council urges the groups supporting the Christian resistance line to continue their mobilization work and wait for further instructions from the Command Council."

Russian Envoy Meets With Buwayz, Comments

NC0311151694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has begun talks with Lebanese officials. He met at noon today at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the presence of Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. The discussion focused on the peace process in the Middle East, Russia's role in it, and the results of Minister Kozyrev's talks in Damascus. Kozyrev's talks are part of the Russian diplomacy's offensive to activate its role in the region. The discussion also dealt with bilateral relations.

The Russian envoy avoided responding to Rabin's statement on UN Resolution 425. He pointed out that Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev had discussed the Lebanese issue in his talks both in Casablanca and Damascus. Here is a report from our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan:

[Begin recording] [Fulayhan] Russian envoy Posuvalyuk evaded answering a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Resolution 425 is dead for him. He disclosed that Russia had started studying President al-Hirawi's recent proposal to set a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the south within six months. He noted that his country needs some time before giving its position on this proposal. The interesting thing is that in his dialogue with journalists, Posuvalyuk only picked up on questions he wanted to answer. He did not want to relate the results of the investigations conducted by his country's authorities into the murder of two Lebanese traders near Moscow in June. The Russian envoy made his remarks following his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. Here is part of Posuvalyuk's remarks:

[Posuvalyuk] In the name of Russia, I say that we seek a comprehensive solution in the peace process. We want movement on all negotiating tracks. We support the implementation of all UN Resolutions, including 242, 338, and 425. We back Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you tell us your country's position on President al-Hirawi's proposal to

activate the negotiations, particularly since Russia is a cosponsor of the Madrid conference?

[Posuvalyuk] Frankly, we need some time to discuss the president's ideas. We have already started to study them. [end recording]

Economic, Trade Agreement With China Initialed

NC3110180194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement for economic, trade, and technical cooperation between Lebanon and the PRC was initialed at the Economy and Trade Ministry today in the presence of Minister Hagop Demerdjian and members of the official Chinese delegation. The agreement was signed for Lebanon by Muhammad Jawad al-Amin, director general of the Economy and Trade Ministry, and for China by the director of the Western Asia and Africa section at the Chinese Ministry of Trade and Economic Cooperation. Minister Demerdjian said the Lebanese economy has recovered and become promising. He said the main aim of the agreement is to raise the standard of living of the people in both countries.

France's Juppe Says Country Crucial to Stability

MM0211142994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Juppe Tells AL-HAYAH: Christians' Infighting Was Suicide"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Paris—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has stressed that the time "has come for Lebanese Christians to participate in rebuilding and in political life." In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that Christian infighting is "suicide." [passage omitted]

Juppe told AL-HAYAH that Lebanon's regaining of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and coexistence role in the peace framework is very important in terms of the region's balance and stability.

He said: "I listened with great interest to Cardinal Sufayr, who briefed me on his fears over the situation in Lebanon as regards human rights and the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. His beatitude's stands are known and deserve a pause for examination."

He added that he reemphasized to Sufayr "France's determination to do all it can so that peace in the Middle East will [not] be established at Lebanon's expense." He pointed out that this question can be the object of questioning from time to time. "We French are facing difficulties in promoting the idea that Lebanon must regain its sovereignty and territorial integrity in full within the peace process framework, so that it can return to its previous status—a model of coexistence among the various sects."

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He stressed that France will not abandon its idea in this connection and that it will continue to promote it. And that it has to convince its European partners of it in order to benefit from their influence in this context. He expressed his hope that Christian reconciliation will be achieved. "Because fratricide and infighting among Christian ranks was suicidal." He said that "when Christians reconcile, they will become stronger, and the time has come for them to participate in rebuilding and in political life. [passage omitted]

Writer Urges 'Fundamentalists' To Change Policy

NC0411092494 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 22 Oct 94 p 7

[Article by Nimr Nimr in the "Black and White" column: "Najib Mahfuz"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fundamentalist insanity, a form of miserable hysteria, is sweeping the nation.

Jewish racism has brought us to this low point. Terrorism, the usurping of our land, wars, defeats, and puppet rulers have driven the Arab masses to illogical solutions.

The Persian-Ottoman-Hebrew siege against us leads repressed young people to try to kill intellectuals, journalists, and scientists.

They have encircled the fertile crescent with a blockade and told the despondent among us that our wise people are the enemy. They told the frustrated that thinking is the cause of the Arabs' calamity. Consequently the lunatics were set loose on men of reason, assassinating them and stabbing them with a knife that is never turned against the enemy. This knife kills reason and turns the nation into a mindless monster.

Stop fighting the wrong battles, stop aiming your rifles in the wrong direction. The road to Jerusalem does not go through the throat of Najib Mahfuz. The Nobel prize for literature is not like the prize of defeat to which Yasir 'Arafat put his thumbprint, though with some reluctance. They called Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] a terrorist because he tried to liberate land by struggle (with some reservations over his foreign links). Today he is the "hero" of peace because he halted the struggle.

What do you call Rabin, leader of the state that has usurped the territory of Jerusalem, the Golan, south Lebanon, and west Jordan? What do you call the Labor Party's war general since 1948? How do you describe the abductor of [Hizballah official] Mustafa al-Dirani from his home? What do you call the killer of Lebanese children? What do you call him, America? Reply without resorting to excessive whorishness [al-'uhr al-mutamadi].

Your agents read Arabic well, speak it with consummate skill, and their speeches are full of one-upmanship about pan-Arabism and nationalism. I hope they will relay my words to you so that your conscience might, hopefully, awake from its Zionist-influenced dormancy.

You, America, nourish the hotbeds of terrorism and extremism. Is it a kind of Kissinger strategy?

They tried recently to eliminate a symbol of Egyptian renaissance. Their masters wanted the foremost litterateur Najib Mahfuz dead so they rewarded his service to the Egyptian public and Arabdom with a stab in the neck.

They showed their gratitude in the form of utter treachery, because Mahfuz taught them with words and narrated to them the stories of Cairo, the streets of the poor, the coffee houses of the simple folk, and the alleys.

You might think from their action that Mahfuz was a billionaire responsible for Africa's hunger, the Third World's debt burden, or the armament budgets, or indeed that he was Shamir, Clinton, or Sharon.

I spit on this extremism. In Kuwait they glorify George Bush for his "achievements" and in Egypt they cover the ink of humanist struggle and honest sweat with Najib Mahfuz' blood.

Fie on such a revolution and fie on such a fate. How deep are you dragging us down, O fundamentalists? This is not the road to Jerusalem and the path to Calvary does not pass through Algeria. It is time you started to understand. Change the policy you follow, because this is the path the United States wants you to pursue.

If you do not change yourselves, you will not change one letter in the game of fate.

Be the guardians of Najib Mahfuz and people like him. Do not be like those who do the stabbing.

Israeli Reaction to Damascus Summit Criticized*JN3110165294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 31 Oct 94*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Damascus summit between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton has provided a new opportunity for Syria to reiterate, in the clearest possible manner, its desire for a just peace that will return all rights to their lawful owners, dismantle occupation, end bloodshed, and safeguard man's dignity. The Syrian and U.S. views were identical on the importance of achieving peace on the basis of the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process; namely, Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging territory for peace. It goes without saying that implementing the two aforesaid resolutions and upholding the land-for-peace formula will help achieve a just and comprehensive peace that will break the vicious circle of violence and destruction and lay the groundwork for a secure and stable future in the region.

It was only natural for the Syrian and U.S. sides to reach such an identity of views, particularly since the administration of U.S. President Clinton has declared its commitment to playing the role of an honest and fair broker in the peace process, and also since Syria has not departed from the framework charted by all the peace initiatives grounded in the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Hence, President Clinton's assertion that peace must be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging territory for peace came reinforces Syria's position, which is grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions that enjoy the support of the entire world community. Nonetheless, one poses the following questions: Since there is an identity of views between Syria and the United States on the bases of peace and the need to achieve peace, and since the entire world community is supportive of peace efforts, why is the peace process being obstructed? Which party is placing obstacles on the way of this process?

We do not need a great deal of hard work to answer these questions. The disappointment expressed by several senior Israeli officials in the aftermath of the Damascus summit, and their attempts to belittle the outcome of this summit, contending that Syria has provided nothing new, all show the party that is trying to evade the true components of peace. This is the same party that is placing obstacles and barriers on the way of peace.

The negative statements Israeli officials have made about the Damascus summit are neither understandable nor warranted. Instead of pushing the peace process forward, as Syria has done, Israel has chosen to place obstacles in the way of peace. As a matter of fact, it is attempting to pull the peace process backwards. Syria

has declared its willingness to achieve peace, and to meet its requirements so the region can live in security, stability, and prosperity. By contrast, the Israeli positions have remained unchanged. As for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, he has dwarfed the issue of withdrawal and rendered it a mere negotiating chip which he believes he cannot relinquish. Is it not strange that Israeli officials address almost everything every day, with the exception of complete withdrawal, at a time when the entire world community, including the U.S. sponsor of the talks, reiterates that withdrawal is an indispensable prerequisite of just and comprehensive peace?

There can be no bargaining over the Syrian territory Israel has occupied since 1967, which Rabin views as his trump card. Moreover, there can be no talk of true peace if a single grain of this territory remains under occupation. Rabin, and other Israeli leaders are well aware of this fact. Pretending otherwise will only result in a greater waste of time and effort. Such conduct will also banish further than ever the current opportunity for peace.

Only Israel can cut short the time and place the region in the true climate of peace. The future of the entire peace process is contingent upon its stand. When Israel declares a willingness to effect complete and full withdrawal, just peace will undoubtedly spread in the region, which has long suffered from wars and devastation. When will Israel act to help achieve such a peace?

Rabbi Dismissed; Jews' Situation 'Very Good'*MM0311112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 ppl, 4*

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Jewish Community Leader in Syria Announces Dismissal of Rabbi Hamra"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Yusuf Jajati, member of the Jewish Community Council in Syria, has announced the dismissal of the community's Rabbi Ibrahim Hamra, who is now in Israel.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Jajati said that he has been managing the community's affairs since Hamra's departure for Israel. He added that the dismissal decision was made by the community in Syria and, therefore, Rabbi Hamra no longer represents that community.

Jajati said that Ibrahim Hamra abandoned his community in Syria and left for Israel, leaving behind hundreds of children without allocations for expenses and dozens of teachers without salaries, and he abandoned the schools and synagogues and ignored the needs of the community members. That, he said, made a bad impression on the members of the Jewish community in Syria, and that is why the entire community has decided to abandon him as he abandoned it.

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He added: We no longer accept him as our representative or spokesman. We draw attention to that and we warn the Arab and Western media against identifying him as the Jewish rabbi in Syria because our representative should be someone who lives with us—not someone else—especially if that someone else lives in Israel. We reject him as rabbi of the Jewish community in Syria.

The situation of the Syrian Jews, Jajati said, is very good and they have absolute freedom of movement and are free to travel and come back as they wish, just like any Syrian. He added that the Syrian authorities are providing all kinds of assistance and facilities and that no less than 51 individuals returned over the past 10 days from the United States to settle down in Syria again, having found life difficult there, and more are expected to arrive within the next few days.

Asked what would be the position of the Jewish Community Council in Damascus if Hamra returned to Syria, he replied: If he returns to look after the community and its affairs sincerely, then we might reconsider his position but now the community does not accept him as its

rabbi, and we are seeking the help of Jewish rabbis from abroad, such as Turkey, in the ceremonial functions and slaughter rites until a new rabbi is appointed.

Chinese Deputy Chief of Staff Arrives

JN0211160694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office today Lieutenant General Cao Gangchuan, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of the general staff of the Army and Armed Forces, the Chinese ambassador, and the military attache at the Chinese embassy in Damascus.

Talks dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly armies and ways of promoting them.

Afghanistan

Herat Governor Meets With UN Special Envoy

LD0311182394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mohammad Esmail, general amir of the western zone and governor of Herat Province, held talks yesterday with Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, on finding a solution to the country's current problems.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports from the city of Herat that Mestiri arrived in Herat to hold talks with the commanders and officials of the western zone. Esteemed Dr. 'Abdol Samad Hamid [former deputy prime minister], Esteemed Soltan Mahmud Ghazi, Esteemed Masud Khalili, and Esteemed Commander 'Abdol Haq, are accompanying Mestiri on this (?trip). Leaders of Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Helmand Provinces also (?took part in this meeting).

Esteemed Mohammad Esmail Khan expressed appreciation for the joint endeavor of the UN delegation and [word indistinct] Afghan (?personalities). [words indistinct].

India

Pakistani Arrested for Involvement in Kidnapping

BK0211161694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Delhi police today arrested a Pakistani national involved in the kidnapping of an American tourist rescued by Ghaziabad police on Monday [31 October]. The police commissioner, Mr. M.B. Kaushal, told newsmen in the capital that the accused, Saifullah Khan, has admitted his involvement in the kidnapping. Saifullah disclosed that he belongs to militant outfit Harkat-ul-Ansar and he entered India via Punch along with the other five militants. He said he had weapon training in Afghanistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Some incriminating documents and weapons have been recovered from him. The police commissioner said a case has been registered under various provisions of TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] against Saifullah. The police is to nab four more militants involved in the kidnapping.

Russian Parliamentary Team Arrives for Visit

BK0411044994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 14-member Russian parliamentary delegation arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit. This follows the prime minister's call for closer bilateral contacts between the lawmakers of the two

countries during his recent visit to Russia. The delegation is led by Mr. (Ivan Petrovic Ribkin), Chairman of the State's Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian federation.

Support Assured for UNSC Restructuring

BK0411093694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has assured to support India's claim in any restructuring of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. This was conveyed to the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, by a Russian Federal Assembly delegation in New Delhi. The 16-member delegation led by the chairman of the state's Duma, (Mr. Ivan Petrovic Ribkin), is currently on a six-day visit to India. The delegation in its meeting with the prime minister today reaffirmed Russia's support to bilateral settlement of disputes between New Delhi and Islamabad in the light of the Simla Agreement. Mr. Narasimha Rao, during the meeting, recalled his recent visit to Moscow and the signing of the Moscow Declaration. The Russian delegation, reaffirming the unique characteristics of the Moscow Declaration, said that bilateral relations have been restored to the past level. The delegation also informed that the Russian prime minister, Mr. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, will visit India next month. The leader of the delegation, (Mr. Ribkin), said his country would like to benefit from India's experience of harmony in the background of ethnic diversities.

Iran

Pro-Montazeri Mullas Arrested for 'Sedition'

MM0211161794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Arrest of Nine Montazeri Supporters and Escalation of Campaign Against Intellectuals"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to reports from Tehran, nine mullas close to Ayatollah Hoseyn Montazeri have been arrested in a number of Iranian cities where the government is apparently facing a wave of protests from various sectors of society.

Units of "street fighters" belonging to the pro-government Hezbollah took up positions in a number of university buildings to prevent student protests.

The pro-Montazeri mullas were arrested on 29 October but opposition sources only confirmed the arrests yesterday. They have been accused of instigating sedition through the distribution of copies of a long "open letter" written by Montazeri and criticizing the government.

In his letter, Montazeri referred indirectly to a recent protest message carrying the signatures of 53 intellectuals. He said that the current government "recklessly wasted the asset of goodwill" built up by the revolution

since its outset. Without mentioning the Republic's leader 'Ali Khamene'i by name, Montazeri warned that any interference by government officials in religious matters would be resisted by all true believers.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the opposition Nation of Iran Party has stated that the authorities recently arrested General 'Azizollah Amir Rahimi, a former military police commander.

Although not a member himself, Rahimi is believed to have the support of that party, which is led by Daryush Foruhar, a former labor minister in Ayatollah Khomeini's government.

Rahimi had published a number of open letters calling for the resignation of the ruling mullas and for the formation of "a government of national salvation." [passage omitted]

Mohajerani Suggests Change in Presidential Term

LD3010121194 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT
30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani said that if the constitution could be amended President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the most qualified person to take office in the next term.

Interviewed by the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, printed Sunday, Mohajerani touched on the next round of presidential elections and said "I believe that there may be an amendment to the constitution."

As for the establishment of political parties, Mohajerani said in his view multi-party system should be meticulously articulated and clarified. In fact, he added, the parties with clear-cut policies and platforms will bring peace to the community. Therefore, he noted, it is all right if the country's existing political groups set up political parties Mohajerani said and meanwhile expressed hope that the Interior Ministry would follow up the matter.

Asked about likelihood of confusing high prices and profiteering and prompting press to make hue and cry, Mohajerani confirmed the issue and referred to the news printed in certain dailies in Tehran claiming that of the \$80 billion foreign currency income in the first five-year development plan \$10 billion has been allocated to luxury goods and refuted the news as principally false. To the contrary, the government encouraged exports so that the exporters could use their own foreign currency income to import goods that are not banned, Mohajerani added.

On struggle against profiteering, Mohajerani said of course the government will counter profiteering abuses not price hikes. As an example he referred to domestic gasoline consumption in the year 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] which increased to 33 million liters from

15 million liters in the year 1363 [year beginning 21 March 1984]. Even if crude oil was free, the government would still have to spend at least rials 90 to turn the crude oil into oil byproducts.

If we give cheap gasoline to people, country's oil resources could be exhausted after 12 years, he said. "In order to prevent fuel consumption from being equal to its production and avoid lagging behind in economic development, we have to accept logical price hikes," Mohajerani stressed.

According to him, profiteering exists because the distribution and production networks are not aware of the culture of earning logical profits. Meanwhile, he admitted that the first five-year development plan had not been quite successful in this regard.

Asked if the issue of price hikes would be used by groups campaigning in the upcoming elections of the Majles, Mohajerani said the issue might be used in two ways. Firstly, all government proposals for logical price hikes were ratified by this Majlis and the present Majlis deputies cannot shift their position at the election season. Second, political groups may take advantage of the situation so as to portray profiteering as the failure of the government economic policy.

3 MKO 'Terrorists' Seized at Iraqi Border

LD0211223894 Tehran IRNA in English 2132 GMT
2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Three members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO) were nabbed while trying to sneak into Iran through the Iraqi border in Ilam, disclosed a security official here today. He said the three were captured on Sunday last and after due interrogation had confessed to their membership in the terrorist grouplet.

The official said further information about the objectives behind of the terrorists would be revealed when investigations are over.

The MKO after years of close cooperation with the Iraqi Army and information services against the interests of the Iranian and Iraqi Muslim people were on October 5 last month officially incorporated in the Ba'thist army by Iraqi Defence Minister 'Ali Hassan al-Majid.

Radio "Voice of the Iraqi People", which belongs to the Iraqi opposition forces, had reported yesterday that the Ba'thist security and information service "Estekhbarat" had set up a special coordination camp called "Dar-ul-Azeem" near Baghdad to help MKO terrorists in their operations inside Iran.

Following the sacrilegious bomb explosion by the MKO at the shrine of Ali-Ibn-Musa al-Redha (pbuh) [peace be upon him] in Mashhad and the murder of two Christian pastors, MKO terrorists martyred two border dwellers who had put up tents in Ilam near the Iraqi border.

Iran has time and again filed complaints to the United Nations Security Council of Iraq's support to the MKO mercenaries, including logistics and military assistance to enable them to violate Iranian territory and attack on the border dwellers.

New Newspaper for 'Islamic Radicals' Published

NC2210153294 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 22 (AFP)—A newspaper representing Islamic radicals appeared on Iranian news-stands this week aimed at promoting political pluralism.

In its first editorial, the bi-monthly 'ASR-E MA (OUR ERA) said it supported the formation of political parties in Iran in a bid to encourage "broader participation" in politics. There are no organised political parties in Iran, although the country's constitution explicitly recognises the right to form them.

The paper, founded by former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati, said it also sought to raise important issues in the areas of politics, economics and social affairs.

But 'ASR-E MA had no intention of engaging in "useless quarrels" with other political factions in Iran, the editorial stressed, adding that it represented the Organisation of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution in Iran (OMIRI). OMIRI, headed by Salamati, was created in 1991 after the dissolution of another radical organisation, the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution. The latter had split from the main armed Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin.

Officials Urged To Mark Anti-U.S. Day on 4 Nov

NC0411102094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "2 November Is 4 November"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ceremonies marking 4 November, the national day of struggle against arrogance, will be held on 2 November this year. The explanations given as to why this day was chosen instead of Friday 4 November have not been convincing. This is why we must recall some points and ask officials in charge to review their decision before it is too late and to mark the 4 November anniversary on 4 November.

1. The significance of 4 November as the day on which three important and fateful incidents took place—the exiling of the imam by the shah's regime, the massacre of students by the Pahlavi executioner, and the occupation of the den of espionage by the students following the Imam's line—dictate that each year 4 November be marked as the anniversary of the three incidents. In the same way that the victory of the Islamic revolution is marked on 11 February and the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic is marked on 1

April each year, ceremonies marking the 4 November incidents should be held on 4 November and not on any other day. An exception to this natural rule can be acceptable only in cases of emergency, as was the case with Jerusalem Day, which was once marked one week ahead to avoid disagreement among the Muslim nations over time differences and to avert plots by enemies. But this is not the case this year with the 4 November ceremonies.

2. This year 4 November is a Friday. Friday is the day on which people gather for prayers and naturally this gathering offers a very favorable opportunity for them to express their aversion toward America. Due to its spirituality, the best possible use can be made of a Friday to make anti-arrogance shouts louder and clearer.

3. Friday is a holiday, and if correctly planned and publicized, it can be the best opportunity to gather a huge crowd of people for the anti-American demonstrations. The officials in charge can seize the opportunity of the week ahead to explain the situation to the world and to the region and clearly list America's crimes and the need for an epic presence on the scene of the fight against the great Satan, thus turning Friday into a spectacular day of anti-American gathering.

Our people are good people and are ready to support the revolution and the system in any way they can. By correct planning and publicity and by keeping the public informed, the best possible use can be made of the spirituality that Friday offers as a day and the 4 November anti-arrogance demonstrations can be marked on 4 November.

'Lesson' of U.S. Embassy Occupation Viewed

NC0311202894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by 'Alireza Shemirani: "Participation in Wednesday's Marches—Why?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The uprising by our nation had an objective that extended beyond a mere change in the ruling system. In a broader perspective, the Islamic revolution hoisted the banner of a struggle against the "totalitarianism of tyranny and oppression" regardless of which part of the world the powers of arrogance had embarked on their plunder and belligerence.

Fifteen years ago, before the victory of the Islamic revolution and at the outset of the uprising, the architect and imam of the revolution had delineated a strategy of "a struggle against the United States and despotic Israel."

It was on the basis of this principle that the U.S. President was given the title of the most accursed individual by our nation and the slogan of "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine!" gained immortality.

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2. The dismantling of the previous regime dealt a heavy blow to the United States and the Zionist regime, but even the victory of this main bastion did not awaken the Zionist manipulators of the U.S. Administration. Why?

First of all, the Islamic revolution—like all other revolutions—was analyzed as relying on the (former) Eastern Bloc and as having links beyond the country's geographical borders. (This point was a source of hope for the enemies of the revolution; they were confident that they could come to terms with the officials of such a government, which had foreign affiliations, even if it was an opposing bloc.)

Second, the presence of "liberal [preceding word in English] and influential" elements at the outset was a heartening factor for their reentry by the back door.

On 4 November in 1357 [year beginning 21 March 1979] with the occupation of the U.S. den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran], the truth transpired when all the obsequious elements affiliated with the West were pushed aside and the Islamic revolution's strategy was implemented. The Zionists and the Americans clearly understood the message of the Islamic revolution, but they continued to make major errors on their appraisal of it and the identification of its bases.

The generating of internal conflict; the arousal of nationalistic, ethnic, and religious differences; direct military action; plotting of coups d'etats; and imposition of an economic embargo—all of which indicate the impotence of the American theoreticians [preceding word in English]—were foiled one after another.

During the course of the occupation of Afghanistan by the usurper armies of the former Soviet Union and the imam's clear stance in supporting the Muslim revolutionaries against the occupation of the Red Army, the U.S. administrators realized that the phenomenon of the Islamic Revolution does not compare with, or conform to, any of the previous revolutions and movements but has created a new precedent: "Nonreliance on the East and West and a struggle against the powers of arrogance."

The East and West united so that they could destroy the Islamic revolution militarily by using servile elements, such as Saddam and the Ba'ath Party. In fact, they used whatever tricks they had up their sleeves. When after a full-scale, eight-year war they found the Islamic revolution as rock-solid as ever, and on the contrary they were assailed by fears of the danger to the Ba'athist rulers in Iraq, the true director (the United States) entered the fray directly.

3. The unfortunate former U.S. defense secretary announced: "We should scorch the root of the Iranian nation." The rancor and malevolence of the U.S. administrators and of the Zionist regime against the Iranian nation stems from the spirit of "freedom-seeking and struggling against tyranny" present in the heroic and

loyal Iranian people. All the hopes of the U.S. Government in the past 16 years centered on how to enter into dealings with the Iranian officials, one way or another, and at all costs to sit at the negotiating table with the officials of our dear system on the subject of our national independence and our struggle against tyranny.

However, it was all in vain as our officials are also one of the people. They consider themselves indebted to those who bestowed these privileges on them and are not prepared to barter the "national independence" of their country and their "support of the oppressed" in the world for any other dazzling consideration.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's system has been based on the wishes of the people in such a manner that their legitimacy stems from the apex of the pyramid of the "Velayat-e Faqih" [rule by the supreme jurisconsult]. The Velayat has deemed "talks with the United States" as the red line of the Islamic revolution and any deviation from this line is construed as the relinquishing of this legitimacy and a transgression of its boundaries.

4. The extensive presence of the people on Wednesday (the day of the national struggle against the powers of world arrogance) for keeping the hallowed slogan of "Death to America" indicates, first and foremost, the steadfastness of the people in their obedience to the Velayat-e Faqih in safeguarding their national independence at all costs. Second, it is an appropriate lesson for the simplistic and overawed individuals at home, and third it is a strong backing for the officials of the system to remain steadfast in combating the deceit and plots of the camp of the powers of arrogance.

Official Denies Report on Oil Accord With U.S.

NC2810092794 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
25 Oct 94 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Economic Desk report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The National Iranian Oil Company [NOIC] yesterday categorically denied a report that Iran reached a preliminary agreement with an American company for the development of an oil field in southern Iran.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES, an informed source at the NIOC said, "No such agreement was reached with the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), as was reported by the PETROLEUM ARGUS, a weekly magazine of the petroleum industry. [no closing quotation mark as published]

The English language PETROLEUM ARGUS reported that Iran and ARCO are at a preliminary stage for signing several agreements for the development of oil fields in the southern Iranian continental shelf, including "Balal".

Another source said Iran's Free Trade Zone Secretary, Morteza Alviri, invited the experts to explore the possibility for the development of oil fields in Qeshm Free Trade Zone.

The same source said that a study is being conducted for the cooperation with foreign oil companies for the development of oil fields in the free trade zone.

He said that during the short discussion, Iranian officials said to ARCO officials that Iran is not interested in inviting the investment of foreign firms in upstream industries; rather, they prefer domestic investment in this regard.

Yazdi Condemns French Decision on Students

LD2610165394 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Wednesday condemned the dismissal of girl students wearing headscarves from French schools.

"Despite claims that France is the cradle of democracy, the world has come to realize that the French education minister has prohibited Muslim school girls and female college students from wearing headscarves," the ayatollah said in a statement. He also deplored the dismissal of nine Muslim school girls from a school in France for refusing to attend school without wearing headscarves.

The judiciary head also lauded the ruling of a French judge rejecting the dismissal of school girls wearing headscarves from French schools.

"We hope that the Paris government would respect the freedom of millions of Muslims living in that country and would make good on such a big mistake particularly when the issue of hunger strike by Muslim girls has been raised," he said.

Condemning both the French education minister and the dean of the French school, the statement warned "the world of Islam will never ignore the violation of Muslims' natural rights by the Paris government."

Further on Yazdi Comments

LD3010143294 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Sunday [30 October] condemned the French education minister's decision to dismiss nine Muslim female students from colleges and schools for wearing headscarves.

In a statement, Ayatollah Yazdi who is also chairman of the Human Rights Commission, said the dismissal of the French students was in violation of the human rights and the Charter of the United Nations which stipulates the rights of people to practice religious rites.

Confirming the ruling of a French judge condemning the dismissal of the students from French schools and colleges, the ayatollah called on the Paris Government to respect the rights of Muslims living in that country.

The judiciary head stressed that the Muslim world will not ignore the violation of Muslims' rights in France, hoping that the French Government will immediately make good on "this big mistake" which has caused Muslim girls to go on a hunger strike.

Meanwhile, the Women's Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a statement issued here Sunday denounced the recent move by French Government. "This is not the first time that the French Government which claims to be an advocate of democracy and human rights, has taken such an illegal action by depriving a group of Muslim students wearing headscarves of their education," the statement said.

It said "it is surprising that the French Ministry of Education has ignored the ruling of a French court and has taken such an anti-human rights move despite the convention on the ban of discrimination against women."

Iranian women while condemning the move will stage a rally on October 31 to show their solidarity with female Muslim students in France.

Women Demonstrate at French Embassy

LD3110160894 Paris LCI Television in French 1500 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been an anti-French demonstration in Iran. More than 1,000 women wearing the Islamic veil gathered outside the French Embassy in Tehran in support of schoolgirls who wear the Islamic veil.

It must be pointed out that the trial of the killers of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiyar is to start in two days. This trial entails high risks and the police are on the alert. Patrols have been reinforced near tourist attractions and department stores.

'Foreign Women' Express Support

LD3110143394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two foreign women seminarians studying in Qom, who took part in a gathering of Muslim women in front of the French Embassy in Tehran, read messages of support, in English and Urdu, for expelled students in France. The messages state: How can the West, which purports to be the defender of human rights and which claims to implement laws and regulations to this end, oppose the education of a handful of students who are only following their religion and their God?

The seminarian sisters expressed their revulsion and rage in the messages and condemned the action taken by the French Government and that country's education minister in banning the education of Muslim students wearing the Islamic hejab [Islamic dress] and in expelling them from schools in that country.

Debate Over Islamic Dress Addressed

NC0411081594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
29 Oct 94 p 20

[Political commentary: "France—Islamic Attire and Our Obligation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. There is no doubt that the Islamic movement in Iran, which culminated in the victory of the Islamic revolution, generated Islamic movements in various places. Even though this movement continues with varying degrees of intensity in various places, it encounters a uniform response; that is, the use of every kind of instrument to limit or crush Islamic movements.

This proliferation of the Islamic movements has motivated politicians in various countries to become sensitive to even the slightest manifestation of Islam in their respective countries and to take a stance against it.

An example can be seen in France with the clamor over the action of some officials in Paris on the hejab [Islamic attire]. French politicians who at one time peddled the concept of civic freedom were forced to intervene in the hejab issue in French schools and to act against it, which was an overt example of a blatant flouting of human rights.

It is the spread of the use of Islamic apparel in French schools, which is directly linked with the growth of Islam in France, that has incited the French echelons to display a defensive reaction and forced them to take every step to suppress the popularizing of the hejab in their country.

This erroneous approach by the French authorities to the use of the Islamic hejab in schools is evident in their seeking to suppress the issue—a corollary of the depth of the people's beliefs—with every political instrument possible.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran has incorporated among the principles of its revolution the support of oppressed Muslims everywhere, which it has proved, not through mere slogans, but by action too. If we are being subjected to international pressure it is because we have no qualms about implementing the principles of our revolution.

The issue of the hejab in France should not be considered a domestic issue in that country. It appears that we should do something in support of our sisters who have chosen to adhere to the hejab in the quagmire of Western society and who say "no" to every threat. This is the obligation of the country that is the cradle of the Islamic world. Lax political behavior should not deter us from carrying out our obligations.

Our ministries should, as in the past, realize the sensitivities of our revolution and display a timely reaction toward them. This does not come outside the framework of the policies of the Islamic revolution and should be kept in mind.

Organizers of Casablanca Conference Criticized

LD0211171494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry has protested to the organizers of the Casablanca conference and has condemned the biased remarks made by the Zionist regime's prime minister, who insulted the sacred nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spokesman termed Rabin a mysterious international terrorist and criticized the Moroccan officials for allowing such a despised character to insult an Islamic country in the presence of the Muslim nation of Morocco.

He said: The thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, moved toward the rejuvenation of the Islamic way of thinking and gave more strength to world Muslims. Therefore, Islamic countries should not act so weakly as to allow the representative of a tyrannical usurper regime, which has violated the material and spiritual rights of Muslims in Jerusalem and has committed numerous crimes against Muslims, to use the territory of one Muslim country to insult another Islamic nation.

Furthermore, the spokesman sees the Casablanca conference as a forum for compromise between the heads of Arab states and the enemies of the Muslim people of Palestine and the Islamic nations of the region.

He added: Before making sure of its admission into Islamic societies, the Zionist regime wants to direct the leaders of these countries toward a certain mode of thinking.

Paper Assails Ministry's 'Silence and Inaction'

LD0211134494 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT
2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—A Persian daily on Wednesday [2 November] criticized the Foreign Ministry for being silent towards regional issues particularly when the region was passing through a critical juncture.

"Developments in the Middle East are so vital for the U.S. that it, in addition to despatching several low and high-ranking officials to the region, arranged the visit to several Arab countries and the occupied Palestine by (President) Clinton," "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said. "What is going on in the region nowadays is in fact declaration of war against Islam by the international Zionism and criminal U.S.," the daily said.

Referring to the recently concluded meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, the daily said the Casablanca conference in which the westerners were actively involved was

one of the most dangerous gathering aimed at selling out dignity, honor, independence and assets of Arab countries to the Zionist regime.

"There are so many conspiratory moves around us and at the heart of the Islamic world, and the Foreign Ministry of the sole revolutionary country which is the base of universal Islamic movement is watching these incidents in silence," it added.

Right when Morocco and Tunisia established diplomatic ties with the Zionist regime, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official visited those two countries and exchanged greetings with their authorities, it said. The same Foreign Ministry official also travelled to Cairo just when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was busy brokering a compromise deal between Israel and King Hussein of Jordan, the daily said.

"When the news of lifting of Arab oil embargo against Israel was released, the Iranian Foreign Ministry showed a weak reaction after a week delay," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. The Foreign Ministry did not even bother to show any reaction when U.S. President Bill Clinton came to the region to witness the signing of peace accord between King Hussein and Israel, it said.

"The reality is that our Foreign Ministry through such silence and inaction is pursuing a policy which by no means suits the foreign ministry of a revolutionary country," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. The foreign ministry of a country which is the base of universal Islamic movement is expected to make its presence felt in all developments which are related to the world of Islam, the daily concluded.

President Meets Kuwaiti Envoy, Opposes Gulf Troops

LD0211123194 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Duwaykh, Kuwait's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, was received this morning by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to present his letter of credentials.

At the meeting, the president considered the developments and military deployment in the Persian Gulf and the continued presence of the foreign forces in the region to be against the interests of the countries in the region. He added: The enemies of friendship and solidarity among the Islamic countries pursue their colonialist and sinister goals to justify their unlawful military presence in the region and to sell military armaments and equipment to countries by creating fear and by depicting the Islamic Republic of Iran as the enemy of the Persian Gulf littoral states.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to Iran's principled stance toward regional developments and emphasized that the only fundamental and lasting way to

protect and strengthen peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region is through cooperation and friendship among the countries in this region. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a powerful and vast country in the region, invites all the Persian Gulf littoral states to be far-sighted and to have friendship, unity, and common exchanges of views on regional issues on the basis of its principled and humanitarian policy, which is driven from Islam's lofty instructions.

Kuwait's new ambassador conveyed the best greetings of that country's amir to our country's president. He said: The Islamic tie and good-neighborliness between Iran and Kuwait are historic. Kuwait is interested in expanding and deepening relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the political, economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

The Kuwaiti ambassador informed the president about the appreciation and gratitude of Kuwait's people and Government for the humane and principled stance taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of Iraqi aggression against that country, and also the warm welcome given by the Iranian people to the Kuwaiti refugees during that difficult period. He said: Cooperation and friendship between the countries in the region and the Islamic Republic of Iran are in the interest of all the countries in the region.

Paper Examines NATO Plans Against Islam

LD2810202094 *Tehran IRNA in English 1911 GMT 28 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 28, IRNA—Defence ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in their recent meeting in Spain agreed on the text of a plan to confront the Islamic movement in the Middle East. Egyptian Islamic paper AL-SHA'B Friday [28 October] reported.

The text, said the bi-weekly paper, consists of several clauses which stress that the Islamic movement endangers the security of NATO states and that the alliance must coordinate efforts with "moderate" regimes in the region to confront Islamic groups.

The plan envisages that NATO should have the possibility of direct military intervention with the cooperation of the regimes if there was a threat by Islamic groups to take power. The other points of the plan as reported by the daily are:

- to promote security cooperation with the regimes and exchange of information on members of the Islamic movement.
- to take military action against those states supporting the Islamic movement and direct military intervention against it if the country attempts to harm the strategic interests of NATO in the Middle East.
- to improve cooperation between the regimes and the intelligence services of NATO to confront the Islamic movement.

Zionist Regime's 'Reliance' on Terrorism Cited

LD2310173394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1556 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A few Western military experts who recently returned from Tel Aviv revealed that the Zionist regime's training camps for terrorists are still active. They said the people who have been trained in those camps have taken part in hundreds of terrorist and inhuman acts throughout the world during the past three decades, according to plans drawn up by the Zionist regime.

The military experts, who traveled to Tel Aviv earlier this month on an invitation extended by Israeli military advisors to several European countries, described the main purpose of their visit as talks with Mosad, the Zionist regime's espionage and terrorist organization.

According to political analysts, the Zionist regime's excessive reliance on terrorist and inhuman acts is based on several reasons. First, the regime itself is a product of terrorism and it cannot survive other than by means of such acts.

The Zionist regime, which did not exist prior to the Second World War, was able to impose itself on the region through persistent acts of terrorism. That regime's behavior in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon toward the people of those regions exposed it more than ever before as the master of state terrorism. The military invasion of Lebanon in 1982-83, kidnapping and assassinating Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers, supporting the mercenaries in southern Lebanon in their suppression of the people of that country, supporting the Phalangists and the mass killing of innocent people from [?Deyr Yasin] to al-Khalil all testify to this fact.

Now, too, while the Zionist regime is chanting slogans of peace and compromise, on the one hand, it has increased its inhuman operations more than ever before, on the other. During the recent shelling carried out by the Zionist regime, the position of UN forces in Lebanon was also hit. The commander of these forces consequently asked the UN secretary general to protest to the Zionist regime about the use of antipersonnel bullets.

On the other hand, the Zionist regime has consistently tried to crush any action taking place anywhere in the world which it sees as being contrary to its interests. Alongside repression, that regime has tried to penetrate the news media of various countries and use them to its own ends by paying bribes. A Turkish journalist recently revealed in this connection that the Zionist regime pays thousands of dollars in bribes to some Turkish journalists each year so they write their news reports in accordance with the wishes of the Zionist regime.

According to political observers, although that regime has succeeded so far in prolonging its existence by resorting to inhuman acts in occupied territories and by presenting itself as the wronged party in international

circles, the increasing revelations about the true nature of the Zionists will create a new arena in which Palestinian strugglers can carry out their legitimate defense, which is described by the Zionists as terrorism.

Possibility of Hamas-Israeli 'Compromise' Viewed

NC2810212994 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
25 Oct 94 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Hamas: Compromise or Realism?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Middle East is awaiting the commencement of U.S. President Clinton's visit so that once again it will witness the signing of a new peace treaty between one regional Arab country and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Clinton's visit is beginning in the midst of conflicting reports from the occupied Palestinian territories.

On the one hand reports indicate that during a secret meeting between the Israeli cabinet and the heads of Mosad, Shabak, and the military intelligence, decisions were made on hunting down and assassinating Hamas leaders. In relation to this, the Israeli housing minister explicitly stated that Israel is to start a long-term war against the Islamic Resistance Movement and is to adopt a specific stance on the issue. On the other hand, Israel's deputy foreign minister accepts the possibility of negotiations with Hamas and says that if Hamas wants to establish calm and to talk, Israel will not object.

Meanwhile, some Hamas leaders have also spoken about compromise and peace and have called for understanding with Israel.

Although it is still too soon to speak about a compromise between Israel and Hamas, in view of the process that has been started it seems that hands are at work to thaw Israeli-Hamas relations and to create new conditions.

Under the current circumstances, Israel and Hamas are facing new realities. Israel has realized the fact that without an agreement with Hamas, it will be unable to establish tranquility in the occupied territories. Previously, Israel thought that by reaching a compromise with the PLO and signing an agreement with 'Arafat, it could harness and crush Hamas. But incidents showed that this was an immature and unrealistic idea since, despite the 'Arafat-Rabin accord, conflicts continued and intensified, so much so that the situation in the occupied territories exacerbated even more.

At the current juncture, the two sides have realized that they cannot achieve their objectives through war. This is why the circumstances now are the best for reconciliation and understanding.

Hamas has stated some conditions for compromise with the Zionists. These conditions include the release of the Hamas leaders from jail. In return, Israel also has some expectations from Hamas that should be realized.

Under these circumstances, those who are mediating and are trying to achieve a rapprochement between the two sides should make more efforts.

The current condition in the region is that everyone has extended an arm for peace and reconciliation, so much so that the process of peace has extended from Egypt and Jordan to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Syria also will join the process soon. Therefore, once this process expands, the situation also will change. If Hamas is currently speaking of peace and reconciliation or if Israel is welcoming a compromise with Hamas, it is because of the prevailing conditions. But we should wait to see if there are any changes in stances, changes that will play a considerable role in charting the course of new developments in the Middle East.

UK 'Interference' in UAE Dispute Assessed

LD2810171994 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 28 Oct 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a recent uncalculated measure, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd supported the idea that the Iran-UAE dispute be referred to The Hague Court. Following those remarks, our country's Foreign Ministry summoned the British charge d'affaires to Tehran and conveyed Iran's formal protest to the position adopted by London. Mr. Ruyvaran, a Middle East expert at the News Research and Commentary Section of Iranian Radio and TV, assesses the issue:

[Begin Ruyvaran recording] There is no doubt that the British foreign secretary's remarks concerning the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf are tantamount to a kind of interference in the internal affairs of Iran and the region. It is the duty of the Persian Gulf littoral states to prevent any kind of spiteful interference in the internal affairs of the region if they want to keep the region clear of any tension. That is particularly so in the case of Britain, which has had a hand in many of the region's past and present problems.

Britain dominated the Persian Gulf region during its colonial past, and to protect its interests as a plunderer it divided the region's oilfields and created small states throughout the region.

Unfortunately, London created ambiguous borders and neutral zones at the borders of those newly established states to extend its illegitimate interests by creating discord, division, and dissent among those states, and to prolong the political dependency of the region on Britain.

We can describe the oil war and the Iraq-Kuwait dispute as one of the most significant consequences of that British satanic policy. Of course, there are other border disputes—for example, between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, and Qatar and Saudi Arabia—which also stem from the same policies.

This situation is unfortunately also true in the case of the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf. The islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa were part of the indisputable sovereignty of Iran when many of the present shaykhdoms did not exist. But as a result of bullying, the islands were occupied by Britain. When Britain withdrew its military forces from east of the Suez Canal at the beginning of the 1970's, the islands once again came under Iranian control.

The lesson here is that, remembering the past destructive role played by Britain in the Persian Gulf region, the regional states should not allow the old colonialist to once again interfere in the internal affairs of the region. [end recording]

Velayati Discusses Iran's 'Right' to OPEC Post

LD3110112694 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, Libyan oil and energy minister, today met and conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

At the meeting, Velayati referred to the importance and special circumstances of OPEC, saying: Oil prices continue to be lower than their real rates and it is necessary for OPEC to put all its efforts into raising prices. He noted the Islamic Republic of Iran's active presence in the oil exporting countries organization—OPEC—and said: It is the Islamic Republic's right to take up the post of OPEC secretary general.

Salim al-Badri emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's important role in OPEC. He said: We will not hesitate but to assist in every way to raise the price of oil and fulfill the role of members.

Official Calls For Closer Ties With Arab World

LD2610223594 *Tehran IRNA in English 2114 GMT 26 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 26, IRNA—For the first time since the establishment of an Islamic state in Iran an Egyptian official newspaper has hosted an article by an Iranian official calling for better understanding and closer ties between Iran and the Arab world.

The full-page article in Arabic titled "Egypt and Iran: Beginning of Dialogue" by Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Educational Affairs Abbas Maleki, who also heads the Tehran-based Institute for Political and International Studies, was published in daily AL-AHRAM Wednesday.

Maleki explains that there is a gross misunderstanding and sometimes deliberate misreporting about Iran's foreign policies in the Arab world and Arab media, and he called for a dialogue between Iranian and Arab intellectuals and scholars to remove those misconceptions.

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Praising Egypt as the "heart of the Arab world," Maleki noted that the love of prophet Mohammad (Sawa) and his family binds the Muslim societies of Egypt and Iran.

For over two centuries under the Fatimids (907-1171), Egypt was the centre of Ismaili Shiites, and contains the tombs of several descendants of the prophet (Sawa). The Fatimids built Cairo and gave to the world the famous al-Azhar Islamic seminary. It is a tragedy of history, that their vast libraries were burnt by the conquering forces of the Kurdish ruler Salahuddin Ayoubi.

However, centuries after their subjugation by Salahuddin's armies, the Egyptians still revere the Ahl ul-Bait the prophet's household.

The Iranian official, accompanied by a number of academics and scholars, paid a visit to Cairo recently where he discussed various topics and issues with Egyptian writers and scholars.

Maleki criticised some Arab media which with malice portray Islamic Iran as being responsible for all the troubles in the Arab world. He underlined that Iran was a normal country like any other state but has an exceptional geographical position bordering some twenty different countries.

The article points out that the attention of Iran's foreign policy, as evident in Bosnia, Kashmir, Tajikistan and elsewhere, is directed towards the welfare and interests of the Muslims.

Finally, Maleki proposed a scholarly dialogue between Iranian professors, students and academics and their Arab counterparts, especially Egypt, to eradicate misunderstandings about Iran in the Arab world. Maleki said his institute was ready to host any such scholarly debate and exchange of views.

Commentary Criticizes Saudi Support for MKO

NC2210095794 *Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Oct 94 p 16*

[Unattributed commentary: "Saudi Arabia: Support for Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the world of politics, when weak governments face crises such as one of legitimacy, unity, political power, identity, and so on, they try to create new foreign elements to focus the attention of domestic and foreign political circles—at least temporarily—on other issues and thus mitigate the destructive blows inflicted by these crises.

A clear example of this policy, which stems from the weakness of the ruling structure of the bequeathed Saudi monarchy, is now visible. Despite the various domestic crises that are rocking the rotten bases of its political structure, the Saudi regime has risen in support of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO]. Now, on the eve of King Fahd's death, the future of Riyadh's political strength is wrapped in a cloud of

ambiguity. Although the Saudi crown prince was assigned this post from the beginning, the future king of Saudi Arabia will not only face numerous opposition forces stemming from the power struggle at home but is only one year younger than King Fahd, and thus death will continue to cast its shadow on the Saudi court.

On the other hand, while the world of politics is being affected more and more by people's political rights, such as the right to vote and to participate in politics, the legality of absolute rule in the Arabian peninsula is in question. Within this context, there are some doubts about how genuine the support for legitimate rights is in movements like the committee defending human rights. Meanwhile, the potential for an uprising in Saudi society is strong and has weakened the structure of the bequeathed rule in that country. The purchase of millions of dollars of antiriot equipment by Saudi security officials from Italy is proof of this.

On the foreign policy scene, too, the failure of support for the illegitimate Yemeni Government headed by al-Bid, who was defeated two months ago by government forces, has rendered Riyadh's plans futile. Also, the revelation of the Saudi Government's behind-the-scenes policy of tacit and then overt support for the Arab-Israeli compromise process inflicted a major blow on Saudi politicians. And finally, Riyadh's main role in playing down the sanctions against the regime occupying Jerusalem, which were in force since 1974, have added to Saudi foreign policy defeats.

Now that Riyadh sees itself facing crises such as these, it is moving toward yet another defeat in its foreign policy and is supporting a terrorist group, the terrorist nature of which is not denied even by its mentors in the West. Such a spiteful stance by Riyadh can only make the political face of the Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia even more sinister.

Undoubtedly, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry will not let such wretched stances by the Saudi Government go unanswered.

Paper Comments on Significance of New Pipeline

LD2610125094 *Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 26 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—A pipeline carrying Turkmenistan gas and oil to Europe is to go on stream Wednesday [26 October] at the presence of three heads of state in Ashgabat, reported the English-language daily "TEHRAN TIMES".

Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is scheduled to fly to Ashgabat today where he will join Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as well as President Sapar Murat Niyazov of Turkmenistan.

Quoting an observer, the paper said that, the Turkmenistan pipeline which will reach Europe via Iran indicates the faith of the neighboring Central Asian republics in the Islamic Republic.

"They can rely on Tehran for the economic development of these newly-independent states which are mostly landlocked," said the observer. He reminded that despite pressures by the west particularly by the United States on other nations to prevent them from having economic relations with Iran, several Central Asian republics have approached Tehran for closer ties.

The pipeline is the first step towards unlimited cooperation between Iran and the neighboring Central Asian republics, he said.

"The Central Asian republics and other countries such as India, Malaysia, and Indonesia are closely engaged in negotiations with Iran and the Central Asian republics for the safe passage through air, rail and road facilities, for export and import of their goods," concluded the paper.

Benefits of Gas Pipeline Lauded

LD2610142994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will arrive in Ashgabat today for a short visit to Turkmenistan to take part in that country's Independence Day ceremony and in the inauguration of the Turkmen section of the gas pipeline. The leaders of Turkey and Pakistan, the other founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, will also take part in the ceremony.

This is the second visit to Turkmenistan by the Islamic Republic of Iran's president. About the same time last year, our president made a three-day visit to Turkmenistan, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation of economical and political officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran, as part of a tour of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Regional observers saw that visit as a turning point in relations between Iran and Turkmenistan.

During the five-day visit to Tehran by Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov, which took place in the month of Dey last year [month beginning 22 December 1993] in return for our president's trip [to Turkmenistan], the two sides followed up the initial agreements reached in previous talks and further consolidated their relations.

The process of advancing the Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with Turkmenistan, in particular, and with all the Central Asian countries in general, turned the corner with the signing of an agreement for the transfer of Turkmen gas to Europe through Iran, because the agreement forms the cornerstone for very extensive cooperation in a whole range of economic, political, cultural, and

scientific fields and can serve as a model for good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and all the countries of the region.

On the basis of the agreement to transfer Turkmen gas through Iran to Europe, it is foreseen that in the final phase of the project about 30 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas a year will be transferred to Europe through Turkey after crossing Iranian territory. This project, the Iranian part of which was opened in Tehran in the presence of the presidents of Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, will have its inauguration on Turkmen territory today and tomorrow. Apart from the two countries' presidents, the leaders of Turkey and Pakistan may also take part in the ceremony.

The economic importance of the project may be seen in the fact that it will not only bring substantial revenue to Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, but will also benefit Turkey and all the European countries that lie along its route. This project can, therefore, serve as a model for multilateral international or even intercontinental cooperation, which fulfills the interests of all the countries concerned. This, together with the fact that the presence of the gas pipeline through Iranian territory is incontrovertible proof of Iran's stability and undeniable strategic importance in regional equations, caused the United States and a number of that country's European allies to embark on negative propaganda and on efforts to prevent this international project.

Now, with the inauguration of another part of this project, it has become clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as an axis of stability, security, and mutual cooperation, can play a basic role with its solid weight in advancing regional cooperation and in preventing the destructive interventions of foreign powers.

The support of ECO member countries for this project, which will be the means for the expansion of cooperation in the future, can lend new dimensions to the many-sided regional cooperation.

IRNA To Assume OANA Chairmanship in 1997

LD3110095294 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Oct. 31, IRNA—The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) is to take over chairmanship of the Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) as of 1997 for three years, said IRNA Managing Director Fereydon Verdinezhad here Sunday [30 October]. Verdinezhad who is also the chairman of the non-aligned news agencies pool stressed that one of the major goals of IRNA is to give overall and suitable coverage to developments while giving priority to the Muslim and neighboring countries.

Speaking at a press conference here, Verdinezhad said that IRNA has 32 offices in various parts of the world which would also cover developments in the nearby

major cities through stringers. He noted that the Zionist-backed news agencies through their mass news production were attempting to disappoint people in the country adding that it was the prime duty of the media to foil such conspiracies in a news confrontation in all political, economic and cultural dimensions.

He stressed that despite access of such news agencies to modern equipment for news dissemination, reports transmitted by them were deprived of any message. He assured that by upgrading the news transmission facilities, IRNA could thwart conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Tourist Visas Available to All Muslims

LD3110114994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muslims everywhere in the world who are interested in visiting Iran can now obtain tourist visas to enter the country. The deputy minister in charge of tourism and pilgrimage affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance told correspondents today: In the past, visas were given only to Muslims from Islamic countries. But now Muslims in any country in the five continents of the world will be given tourist visas within 24 hours of requesting them from Islamic

Republic of Iran embassies. These visas will be valid for one month and are renewable. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Police Fire on 'Unruly Crowd,' Kill Activist

BK0411020294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Nov 3 (AFP)—A communist party activist was killed and another 13 others injured when police opened fire to control an unruly crowd in Dang district west of here, a Home Ministry spokesman said Thursday [3 November].

The spokesman said the incident took place in Bijauri constituency, in Dang district, 340 km (212 miles) west of here when police stopped communist activists from marching towards a meeting of the ruling Nepali Congress.

He added that one police superintendent received head injuries.

Meanwhile, a spokesman from the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist alleged that the police opened fire on the orders of the minister for public works and transportation, Khum Bahadur Khadka.

The allegation was by the Home Ministry.

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